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این کتابی است
در حقیقت مذہب اسماعیلیہ

مسمی بہ
رسالہ در حقیقت دین

من تصنیفات
مرحوم آقای شہاب الدین شاہین
مرحمت پناہ شاہ علی شاہ حسینی قدس سرہما
بسی قل العباد ایلوا نف
در مطبع مظفری مقیم بندر بمبئی
بتاریخ

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دیساجہ

این مختصریت و حقیقت دین و معنی معرفت از تصنیفات مرحوم سید شهاب الدین شاه اسینی قدس اللہ سرہ کہ پسر زرگوار مرحمت پناہ افاکی سید شاه علی شاه علیہ السلام بودند و جو انمک از این دارفانہ اربعا بتاریخ آخر ماه رجب سنہ ۱۳۰۲ جلالت نمودند شخص ایشان بزرگواری بود کامل در علوم دین و فراست حقیقی و در عصر خود در میان خلایق احترام و اعتبار بی نہایت داشتند و سبب تصنیف این رسالہ مبارکہ چنانچہ در ضمن آن بغفل فرمودہ اند آنست کہ برای ہدایت مؤمنان باقی بماند و این رسالہ کلیتہً دو قسمت بودہ قسمت اول کہ در تبیین معانی حقیقت و ایمان بود فقط بعلم آمد و بتالیف قسمت دوم کہ در وضع طریقت و سلوک بود نائل نشدند و لذا چون قسمت اول کاملانوشتہ شدہ بود بطبع رسید تا مؤمنان از آن نفع بخورند و بہرہ مند شوند و چون مقصود آن بزرگوار این بودہ کہ خاص و عام ہمہ از او بہرہ برند از این سبب عبارات خیلی سادہ و واضح تصنیف شدہ و حتی فقط ترجمہ آیات کلام اللہ و احادیث نبوی اکثراً نمودند و خود آن آیات و احادیث را بیان نفرمودند و واقعاً

این رساله سعدن اسرار حقیقت دین و معانی معرفت رب العالمین گردید
و این نسخه فعلاً چاپ شد از عین خط خود آن حضرت از نسخه اصل و این
که بعضی معانی بحال اوصح بیان نگردیده ظاهر این بود که حل جسم مملکت
ایشان زاد و شاید قصد داشتند که در قسمت دوم این معانی را توضیح
کنند مثلاً در بیانات شان میفرمایند که باید مؤمنان و مسلمان ترک
دنیا و دنیا کنند و در فکر آخرت باشند و یقین است که معنی آن نهایت
که آنرا باید مال و عیال و کسب شان و اگر دارند و بگدائی بپشتند بلکه غیش
این است که از قید فکر پر خوردن و پر خوابیدن خود را آزاد کنند و به آن کارها
که برای ترقی انسانیت مفید است مشغول شوند و شغل دیگر آن است
که در آخر رساله فرموده اند که مؤمنان باید از سایر علوم غیر از علوم دینی پرورند
و بعلوم دشمنان خدا اشتغال پیدا نکنند مغیثش تعیین آن است که مؤمنان
همه چیز را گذارند و مشغول یاد گرفتن احادیث شوند و از علم حساب و طب
و غیره از علمی که برای زندگی انسان اهمیت دارد باز بمانند بلکه از آن

علمی پرورند چنانچه در بعضی کتابهای

اهل ضلال برای گمراهی خلق بیان شده

بیت

همه عشق است اندرین صحف

همه شوق است اندرین طومار

رساله در حقیقت این بسم الرحمن الرحیم و به نستعین

چنین گوید غلام آستان حضرت شهنشاهی اقا علی شاه روحی فردا
 شهاب الدین بحسینی چون بعضی از برادران دینی که ادای حقوق ایشان را
 بر خویش واجب میدانست خواهش رساله مختصری نمودند که سرایه نجات
 اخروی باشد برای ایشان و هم آئین سلوک در دنیا با اخوه نمون خوشتر
 دانسته که تمانا انشا الله تعالی نصائح را بکار برند و رستگار شوند بر حسب
 مراد ایشان از خداوند سئلت توفیق نموده اجابت دعوت نمودم و علیه
 الکلام حضرت مولی الموالی علیه سلوات الله الملك العالی میفرمایند
 که روزی جمعی از اصحاب را حضرت رسول صلی الله علیه و آله بر سر پستاد
 زمان مرحبت آنها که بشرف حضور شرف آمدند فرمودند مر جا بجا معنی که جهاد
 را بجای آورده باقی است برایشان جهاد اکبر خدمت آن بزرگوار عرض
 شد جهاد اکبر که ام است فرمودند افضل جهاد آن است که بنفس
 جهاد نمانی یعنی بنفس انار صدق صلی الله علیه و آله ای برادران این
 سن که مدتی عشق و محبت مولی هستید لحظه گوش دارید و حقیقت معنی کلام
 آنحضرت را بشنوید و اندکی در کار خویش درنگ نرید باشد که تنی از شما راه فلاح

یابد مراد از جهاد با نفس آماره آنست که نفس را مقهور ساخته و در ابغرضان
در آورد چنانچه این نفس که همیشه مخالف عقل است انسان را نتواند براه شایسته
بدارد که مخالف پیروی دین باشد نفس را تحت حکم عقل در آورده و او را بدارد
بر طاعت و فرمان بری که اصل سر نایب نجات است و همین است معنی امر اقامت تقیم
زیرا که فرمان بری همان راه راست رفتن است و انشاء الله تعالی در این مختصر ۲۵
پایان مطلب را خواهد نمود و منتهی التوفیق بدیندای برادران دینی که احادیث و آیات
قرآنی در پاک نمودن نفس آماره و صفای آن بی نهایت وارد است از جمله
آنست که خداوند در قرآن میفرماید رستگار شد کسی که نفس خود را پاک نمود و
چنین است زیرا که نفس را پاک نمودن بهترین اعمال می باشد که با آن
راه صواب میسر شود و از این جهت که آنچه انسان را از رسیدن براتب
عالیه باز می دارد همان نفس است که منع از طاعت و پیروی دین حق می نماید
چونکه او را نگاه داشتن بلکه بستن و نگه داشتنی که بر تو غلبه کند و ترا از راه راست ۵
باز دارد البته مدارج عالی برسی حضرت مولی میفرمایند در مقام بند
و عبودیت و راه نمائی دوستان خویش که چگونه راه روند و نفس را چگونه
در بند نمایند که ای پروردگار من ایست نفس من که او را مانند شتر زانوش
را بسته ام بزانو بند شیت تو که بخوابش تو کاری نکند پس ای دوستان
بدانید که نفس را باید بطوری نگاه داشت که اصلاً مجال سرکشی نکند که ترا از دست یزد
و از پای آورده و مرا از جهنم بدارد و از رسیدن بتمام قرب باز دارد و نگذارد
بحالتی بری که مؤمنان رسیدند پس باید که ششش نمود تا آنکه راه راست را

دریافت در قرآن است آنها که در راه ما جفا نمودند هدایت میکنیم شایرا
 ۵ براه خویش که همان است صراط المستقیم نفس را باید از آنچه خوشش
 اوست از اسباب دنیوی باز داشت و آخرت را برای خود ذخیره
 ساخت و شاهراه هدایت را فرو نگذاشت ای برادر بدان که از قرآن
 احادیث و آیات بر انسان که اندک شعوری داشته باشد و در خیال
 آخرت باشد واجبست که هنگام طلوع صبح که از خواب غفلت برمیخیزد
 با خود اندیشه کند و نفس خود را بتمام حساب در آورده اندکی فکر کند و متوجه
 احوال او باشد به پند و بداند که هر نفسی که از او برمیآید مثل در و جواهر است
 ۵ گر انبیا بلکه نبی صحت زیرا که کدام نفس است که بیرون آید و باز برگردد
 پس چه جز است که قیمت نفس را داشته باشد هرگز نمیتوان تصور نمود
 که آنچه از حق سرگشته عود کند نیست که گفتم قیمت ندارد زیرا که چیزیست
 جای از بگیرد و نه نقدی است که بآن میتوانی خزنه از خزان رحمت
 خدا برای خود بخری میتوانی در همان نفس آخرت خویش را مسموم کرده
 باشی میتوانی دریافت در فرصت که یافتی و نفس کشیدی خود را بتمام
 ۵ قرب برسانی میتوانی محل دیداری در آن سرا چنانچه در این دنیا داری
 اگر قدر بدانی برای خود میتا سازی میتوانی باین نفس تجارتی کنی که در نفع آن
 زوالی نباشد و هرگز فانی نشود و باقی باشد برای تو پس وقت خود را بی
 مکن که از عهده عزاست بیرون نمی آئی چون وقت را ضایع کنی و با آنکه
 آن نفس کشیدن را در راهی بروی که سعادت نرسد و آن دقیقه را بگذاری بعثت

از دست تو برو و ضرر کلی بتو رسد هیچ عاقلی را شنیدی که تجارتی کند که در آن
گذشته از نفعی که ببرد کاری عجب کند که ضرر باهل سرمایه برسد بلکه بکلی سرمایه
تمام و فانی شود پس ایجهان با خود اندیشه کنسید و بنفس خود اندیشه بنسید
و بنفس خود بکشید ای نفس مرا سرمایه تجارت که بآن سود آخرتی برای خود خواهی
کنم مگر این چند روزه عمر و آنچه از آن رفته است دست چاره از آن کوتاه است
و بآن نیرسد در حقیقت همین قدر که از عمر گذشته است ضرر نیست که باهل سرمایه
تجارت انسان دارد آری است این امروز بلکه این نفس باید ضحیت
شمرد که روزنوی است که از اهل محنت گرفته و او ترا محنت داده است اگر امروز
ترا فرصت و محنت نمیداد تو در شمار اموات بودی چه بسیار کسانی که دیرین
بودند و امروز آرزوی حیات میبردند بجان نیکویی که اگر دیر و زمرده بودی حیات
امروز آرزوی حیات داشتی این نعمت حیات که امروز خداوند ترا از زانی داشته
است قدر بدان و غنیمت شمار و بعبادت مشغول شو که این زندگانی امروز تو فانی
ایام گذشته کند شاید عملی بنمایی که موجب وسیعته تو باشد و در آخرت در
مقابل آن جمعیت از خلایق شمرسار و محنت ندیده نباشی نمی در این دنیا
مردم بواسطه یک عمل ناشایست که کسی از بنی نوع انسان بر آن مطلع شده
است چه قدر محمل و شمرسار میشود پس چون تمام خلق مطلع شوند بسیار
و عاقلان و غیرهم بر عمل چهل ساله یا بیشتر چه باید کرد تفصیل این را بعد از انشاء الله
تعالی ذکر میکنم اکنون بر سر سخن رویم در قرآن است که در روز قیامت
کسانی چند از گناهکاران هستند که عرض میکنند یا پروردگار ما را بر گردان

دنیا که بعبادت و بندگی در راه صواب پردازیم خداوند میفرماید دروغ میگویند
 اگر باز گردند باز همان اعمال خود عود میکنند حال ای برادر با نفس خود خطاب
 کن ای نفس امروز را چنان بپندار که همان روز است که خداوند ترا بدینا گردانند
 و محلت داده است و تو آرزوی حیات داشتی که بدینا برگردی و عبادت کنی
 اکنون فرصت غنیمت شمار و آنچه آرزو در نظر داشتی که بجای بیآوری و سرگردانی
 ای برادر چنان پسندار که آنچه گفتم برای تو صدمه دارد که نمیتوانی بامور دنیا
 و تدبیر منزل و غذا پرداز و از حیثین میت میتوانی مؤمن باشی بندگی خدا نباشی
 و دنیای تو ایسم معمور باشد بلکه بستر از همه باشد بدانکه بزرگان دین اوقات
 شبانروز را به قسمت مساوی تقسیم نموده اند که هر قسمتی هشت ساعت است و اگر
 تو این سه قسمت را درست بدانی و بهر قسمتی عمل کنی که ترا فرموده اند دنیا و آخرت خود را
 درست نموده و قسمتی از برای خواب است که در این قسمت غذا خوردن و تدبیر منزل را
 شامل نموده اند قسمتی از برای صرف در امور دنیا و تحصیل معاش است و قسمتی دیگر
 برای عبادت مقرر فرموده اند که تحصیل آخرت و جهان باقی نمائی در حدیث میفرماید
 که شما برای بقا و خلقت شده اید نه از برای فنا و زوال پس معلوم شد که این
 جهان فانی را باید گذاشت و در اوقات شتافت عمل نمود که سرمایه نجات آخرت
 باشد و نفع آنرا در آن دنیا برداری که باقی است میفرماید دنیا زمین زیر است
 آخرت هر چه در اینجا کاشتی در آخرت برداشتی پس اگر از اهمیت خود بگشایی
 و نفس را بعبادت نداشتی البسته روزگار خود را ضایع گذاشتی که از این
 مرز حاصلی برای آخرت برنداشتی آنوقت حالت تو مثل حالت

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کیست که بر سر پای تلف شده تا تنف خورد و بر عمر گزشتۀ تحسیر برد و کا
 از دست اورفته باشد و نتواند علاجی کند و چه قدر توفیر دارد این
 حالت با حالت کسی که در دنیا آخرت را سمور نموده و با آنچه او را قسیر بان
 است پذیرفت باشد حاصل این زراعت و عمر گرانمایه و جوانی قیمتی نفس را
 که صرف نموده بر دارد و به بیند بسته از آنچه خرج کرده است نفع نموده سودی
 برداشته حاصل یافته و در کار خویش مثل دیگران تحیر ندارد بدان ای؟
 فرق کلی میان عقل و نفس است چون این را بدانی و در وقت ضرورت
 بکاربری در هیچ امری در نمایی بلکه هیچ چیز بر تو مشکل نگردد و آنوقت مید
 ترا چه باید کرد و همیشه براه راست که صراط المستقیم است خوابی بود عقل
 که ترا براه راست همیشه بخواند و نسیگه دارد در پل اقیانوس میفرماید عقل است
 که بان عبادت پروردگار نمائی و آخرت را بدست آری و در بهشت جاوید
 در آئی و بمانی و نفس برخلاف آنست و دشمن عقلست و نه تنف عقل را
 دشمن است بلکه در واقع که نگاه کنی و بیندیشی ترا دشمنی است قوی زیرا که تو باید
 عقل را فرمان بردار باشی تا بجائی برسی نفس است که نمی گذارد ترا
 و از متابعت عقل باز میدارد و از راه دور میگرواند و نسیگه دارد
 بمقام قرب برسی و اگر راه عبادتی برای تو پیدا کند هم برخلاف رضای خدا
 است دشمنست نسیگه دارد ترا بمطلوب برسی هر قسم بتواند در صدد دشت
 تو بر می آید تو نمی فهمی بباس دوست جلوه میکند لکن است بباس
 میش در می آید و ترا بهر طور است از راه میبرد آن وقت فریاد تو بیفاید

خواهد بود خداوند تعالی حجت را در میان شما باقی گذاشته است که او را
متابعت کنید چون نمودید تقصیر را از خود بدانید باری فرق میان
این دو راه بدان دوست را از دشمن بشناس و از راه بیرون مرد در
قرآن است که مارا خیر و شتر را بانسان نمودیم و همچنین آیه دیگر
دلالت میکند بر این مطلب که فرموده است مارا راه را بانسان نمودیم که با
رسنگار شود یا آنست که شکر ائمه این نعمت عظمی را بجای می آورد و بر
راست می رود یا آنکه قدر نینداند و در زمره کافران محسوب میشود چشم
ادای شکر ائمه نعمت می پوشد و راه باطل می رود راستی که نعمت
از این بالاتر و بالاتر است که شخص براه راست و صراط المستقیم هدایت باشد
و از راه باطل پرهیز کند و حق را از باطل فرق گذارد اگر قدر این نعمت را بدانی
و آنچه شنیده در وقت مشکل که ترا در دین روی دهد بکار بندی هرگز گمراهی
شوی و میدانی ترا چه بسیار باید کرد و دیگر اختیار با توست متابعت عقل یا
نفس هر کدام را که خواهی بکن اینقدر بدان که آنچه ترا از اطاعت باز دارد
و از راه بدر برده است نفس است و تو میدانی از متابعت نفس چه ضرر
داری گذشته از آنکه از راه بدر رفتی طاعت نکردی شکر گفت نمودی بلکه
کفران نمودی گمان بردی که این راه را که بگفته نفس رفته راه حق بوده و حال آنکه
او ترا از راه بطوری بدر برده که از دوسته خدا پرستان خارج شده و هر قدر
بیشتر متابعت و پیروی نفس انسانی زیاد تر از راه دور می شوی بلکه کارت بجای
میرسد که پشت بطلوب رفته باشی چه خوب میفرماید آینه در غیبت روی

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تو بشرق پشت بر تو میروم خاکم بفرق دیگر خود را اگر چشمت بر بیند
 در کار خود فکر کنی می بینی که خدا پرست نیستی چرا که اطاعت همان عبادت
 ۱۹ کردنت همینکه نفس را اطاعت کردی و او را عبادت کردی و چون نفس را
 عبادت کردی خدا را بسندگی نکرده دیگر خدا پرست نیستی از اینجا است
 که گفتم دشمن دوست نما ترا از راه برده است صریح آیه قرآن است که
 آیا دیدی کسانی را که خدای خویش قرار دادند هوای نفس خود را
 خواهشهای نفسانی که خوی حیوانیت اطاعت کردی و او را پرستیدی
 و از راه عقل که شاه راه هدایت و خوی ملک بود پای کشیدی و دست
 برداشتی همین چه کرده و چه پایه باید خجلت و شرمساری داشته باشی
 این راه ملاحظ کن که مردم چقدر بر سر سود عیب میگیرند که بت پرست
 ۲۰ هستند و بنیدانید خود چه چیز را پرستش می کنید خوی حیوانی نفس را
 که پرستیدند بعد هزار درجه از سنگ پست تر است تا خوی کدام حیوان
 در نفس آنها باشد و چه چیز را پرستند اینجا است که گفتم ضرر کلی در این بت پرست
 داری بلکه سرمایه تو از دست رفته آنوقت مفسد آید که مریه که خسارت نمود
 خسران فاحش تو واقع میشود ای برادر خویش او اپای بدانکه راه
 حق کیست و اینها که می بینی که در عالمند از راه دور افتاده اند و فرقی
 نمی کنند از راه دور شدن که اندکی دور شوی یا آنکه مسافت بسیار
 طی کنی چرا که نمی بینی کسی را که در آب غرق شد برای او فرقی ندارد که
 ۲۱ اندکی آب از سرش بگذرد یا آنکه در دریائی عمیق افتد پس کوشش

کنید که از راه دور نشوید و فریب شیطان را نخورید نه خود بابت اگر نفس
 بر شما غلبه جوید و شمارا در بند کشد آنوقت ذلیل سازد و بهر جا که خواست
 اوست براند و متولی شود دیگر تمام اوقات شما صرف عبادت و متابعت
 نفس میگردد و فرمان بردار او میشود آنوقت در معرض این خطاب الهی
 چه جواب خواهی داد که آیا با شما ای بنی آدم عهد بستم که متابعت شیطان
 نکنید که او شمارا دشمنی است ظاهر هر کس متابعت نفس و شیطان کند
 باید هتایی جواب خداوند باشد ای برادر بدینا و اسبابش که ترا
 فراهم آمده غره شو خواهش نفس را کنار گذارد و دل از دنیا بگیرد آنوقت بین
 چون تو بر اینجهان فانی دل ندادی عالم ترا سخر میشود و در قرآن است که من شد
 آنچه در آسمان و زمین است شاراتها و در این علامتی است برای کسی که
 تفکر کند ای برادر تدری فکر کن نعمت خدا را شکر گذار باش که تو
 ارزانی داشته است چون تو خود را مطیع خدای و دست کشیدی اکنون
 میگویم که انسان در این دنیا باید پیشوائی داشته باشد و تحقیق این مطلب
 ان شاء الله در موقع خود خواهد نمود چون هفتم دست از اسباب دنیوی
 بردار میگویم دست در دامن کسی زن که این اسباب برای وجود او خلقت
 شده است تا اینها سخر تو شوند و فکر کن که ام بستر است که این بستر
 را داشته باشی و واگذاری بستر است یا آنکه او را مطیع باشی یا نهی
 مطیع تو شوند در حدیث قدسی میفرماید ای محمد اگر تو نبودی اینها
 را خلقت نمیکردم مینی آنها بود تو بر پایند و در جای دیگر است که اگر

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علی^۲ نبود ترا خلقت نمیکردم اکنون بدان که مقصود از آفرینش
 شناختن آن نظم و حلال و جمال خدا بوده که دارای همه صفات است
 کجاست چشم بینی که ببینند و براه عقل رفقه بعضی از صریح
 چنان معلوم میشود که اگر حضرت رسول^۳ ولایت او را ظاهری حیات
 رسالت ناقص بود که آیه اینست ای پیغمبر برسان بر مردم آنچه را بتو فرستادم
 و اگر زسانی رسالت خود را تبلیغ نکرده پس همه این اسباب اوضاع
 آفرینش و ارسال رسل و انزال کتب برای شناختن او بود که فرموده
 بودم با هر پیغمبری و با محمد^۴ آشکار شد م تحقیق بمطلب هم در جای
 خود ذکر میشود اکنون چون سخن باینجا رسید همان بهتر که شرمی از
 معرفت برای شما برادران دینی خود بیان کنم که از این بیان واضح
 که انشاء الله سینمایم مطلب کلی که عقل عاقلان در آن حیران است
 بفهمید ای برادران در این نکته نیست که شخص چون سلطان نیست
 لامحاله رعیت خواهد بود و رعیت بطور حتم سید اند جز اطاعت سلطان
 علامی ندارد ولی سلاطین دنیا نعمت و نعمت ایشان هم در دنیا
 است چون دنیا فانی و ایشان هم فانی سلطنت ایشان هم فانی است
 چنانچه کسی انعامی کنند مانند اموال دنیوی است بقائی نماند و اگر
 غضب کند هم بی بقاست زیرا که اینها همه تابع وجود ایشانست
 چون اصل که وجود است نیست مگر آنکه فانی میشود تابع وجود هم فانی
 است بخلاف پادشاهان معرفت که رعایای ایشان که محکوم حکم

ایشان در رعیتند چون سلطان ایشان امر تحصیل آخرت نموده
و همچنین وعده آخرت داده است که نعمت باقی بدهد یا رحمت
جاوید برساند پس احدی نیست که عاقل باشد و فانی را با حق
صلح نکند نعمت فانی را نگاه دارد و رحمت جاوید را برای خود
بگذارد در قرآن است بدرستی که خدا خرید از مؤمنان جانها
و مالهای ایشان را که در عوض آنجا بهشت بدهد ای برادر
کفران نعمت مکن بسبب این چه میدهی در عوض چه سیگیری جان را
که لامحاله فانی است از تو سیگیرند و جهان باقی را بتو از رانی میدارند
پس بشارت باد شمار بخسبید و فروشی که با خدا کردید چون چنین رفتی
که چه طور میشود که خطام دینوی را نگاه داری و از آخرت دست
بر داری و چون از دنیا دست کشیدی همه اسباب آن ترا سخر
میشود زیرا که دست کشیدن تو محض فرمان برداری بوده نه از ترس
عذاب یا امید ثواب عاشقان جمال حق گفتند که تو بعضی
و یادگیری حضرت سید الشهدا میفرماید که ای پروردگار ز ما
و مردم آزا که اشتهم و ترک نمودم در راه عشق تو و بسوی تو آمدم و
عیال و اطفالم را ایتمم ساختم که جمال ترا مشاهده نمایم پس اگر محبت
خود مرا ریزه ریزه سازی که قلب من مایل بغیر تو نخواهد شد در
ما خط مکن مقام جان بازی و گذشت از دنیا را که تا بچه حد ایشاد
نمودند اینست معنی گذشت از دنیا اکنون دانستی که باید رعیت بود

و اطاعت نمود و حال در ضمن معرفت و تدری از اطاعت بشنو ای
 ۲۸ برادر اطاعت همان عبادت است و عبادت عین معرفت اصل خلقت
 عبادت و معرفت است که در قرآن است که خلق کردم جن و انس
 مگر برای عبادت و نیز وارد شده است که بودم گنجی نهیانی خواستم
 تا آشکار شوم و شناخته گردم خلق را خلق کردم که شناخته ایم بزرگان
 دین عبادت و معرفت را یکی دانسته اند حال که بر سر مطلب رسیده ام
 نمیدانم چه بگویم چه طور بگویم که تو بعضی ای برادر بدان که عالم
 را ظلمت فرو گرفت دست دشمن دراز شد مقام امتحان در میان آمد
 افتلاب در مردم افتاد هر کس برای رفت و خیالی نموده جمعی از بندگان
 ۲۹ جا بمان که در وان راهند تستافتند هر جاحی بود بخت در امکان شن
 گرفتند کم کم قلبها سیاه شد گوشها کر شد زبان گوینده از کار باز ماند
 امکان نداشت که بجاعت کر با توان مطلب گفت کی میفهمند اکنون ای
 برادر زبان گوینده هست اگر گوش شنو اداری پیادالایستوانی درک
 این معنی را نه ای که گفت چون تیغ پولاد است تیز چون نذاری تو سپرو پس
 گیر ، اکنون میگویم و باد استعانت میجویم آنچه از بزرگان دین رسیده
 است در معرفت باید متابعت ایشان نمود فرمودند در ذات خدا فکر
 نکنید درست هوش خود را جمع کن و لذت را از طلب دور کن باشد که خدا را
 ۳۰ توفیق دهد در گفتش و تو را در شنیدن طلب بزرگست و مشکل مگر تو بعضی
 شک نیست که مرتبه اشخاص چنانچه در ظاهر صورت مختلفند باطن و معنی هم

اختلاف کلی دارند نمی بینی یکی سیاه است یکی سفید یکی کوتاه است یکی بلند همچنین اختلافات کلیه و جزئی که اشخاص دارند و تو می بینی پس در واقع و باطن هم مختلفند که ظاهر صورت باطن است چه طور میشود آنچه بر دعاتی کاملی میگویند بطفلی هم بگوئی کی حوصله شنیدن و ظرفیت آزاد دارد که تعقل کند کون کی گنجایش دارد آب دریا را هر کس بقدر همت خود خانه ساخته، بهمین جهت که باختلاف شمس احوالیت دارد شده است که فرمودند ۴ ویت ما شکل است در نهایت اشکال کسی نمیتواند برداشت کند آنرا مگر بتی مرسله یا ملک مقرب یا مومنی که خداوند دلش را امتحان نموده باشد از برای ایمان اکنون اگر خود را و دل خود را امتحان کرده از در مادر اگر طالب عشق سرمدی در صف خدا حکم شد تفکر نمایند بدانکه آنچه شما تصور کنید که دیگر از آن بالاتر مرتبه نیست این منتهای فکر شماست نه آنکه تصور کنید بجای رسیدن آنچه فکر ترا در آن ره نیست، نهایت فکر است الله نیست، بکنه ذاتش خود برد پی اگر رسد حس بقدر در صفت یعنی چیزی از خیر باشد در کسی باشد و بگویند در او هست پس چون کسی را نمیتوانی شناخت باین دلیل که گفته شد و هم ما موری که فکر نخبه که حیرت ساز یاد میشود صفت هم نمیتوان پیادری اینکه می بینی مردم برای حق ذکر کردند بقدر فهم خودشان بود مثلاً گوری برای مردم عیب بود و گفتند خدا چنانست چهل بدو گفته داناست پس آنچه در خویش تن نقص میگردند برای خدا در مقابل

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کمالی ذکر کردند در حدیث حضرت سجاد میفرمایند چون در آخر الزمان
 مردم بسیار پی جونی میگردند سوره قتل موانعه نازل شد
 اینها که توار برای خدا ذکر مینمودی بخمال خود چیزی برای او گفتی
 شاید همه جانور با خدای خود را از منفعت خویش معزادانند بخت کمال
 خود ستایند حضرت باقر می فرماید شاید مورچه کوچک تصور کند خدا
 دوزبان است چون کمال او در همین است گمان میکند در کسی که این
 دوزبان نباشد نقص او خواهد بود پس در این صورت پیروی میشود با
 دین که فرمودند ما هم صفتی ای خدا واجبست بدان ای برادر منیائست نه
 شنوایانند رعیت را نیرسد که بجز فرموده عمل کند فرمودند هر کس ما را
 شناخت خدا را شناخته بفهم ای برادر من مثالی در این باب لازم است
 که نزدیک بفهم باشد مثلی نیست که نوری که از چراغ است اگر چه خود چراغ
 نیست ولی اگر این نور نبود چه میدانستی چراغ چیست بجاست پس نور
 پی چراغ بردی از نور شناختی مثالی دیگر از این بالاتر پیاورم که هرگاه نخواهی
 دلیل بر وجود آفتاب پیآوری بجز خود آفتاب را نمودن چه میتوانی گفت
 خود آفتاب دلیل خود است آفتاب آمد دلیل آفتاب پس اگر خیال داری
 آفتاب بر سر داری همان آفتاب را بین اگر دلیلت باید از وی برخ
 متاب ایشانند صورت ظاهر خدا در فقرات زیار است که مردم میخواهند
 دینی فهمند میگویند سلام بر تو ای صورت خشنده خدا ای چشم پیاد
 گوش شنوای خدا و دست گشاده او ای خون خدا پسر خون خدا معلوم

۳۵ که صفات الله ایشانند که مأموری بمعرفت ایشان شناختن ایشان
 عین شناختن خداست پس بضم معنی این حدیث را که هر کس میزد
 امام زمان خود را شناسد بجا طاعت مرده یعنی آن عبادت پرست بود
 آنکه امام خود را شناخت خدا را شناخته است پس چون دانستی
 که اشخاص مختلفند و با اختلاف فهم ایشان با ایشان صحبت میداند
 بعضی را گفتند هیچ چشمی اورا نمی بیند برخی را فرمودند خداوند اعقول
 ماستان پنهانست چنانچه از چشم نیز پنهانست زیرا که فهم آنهاش
 از این برداشت نداشت ولی مظهر حلال و جلال خدائی امیر مومنان
 میفرماید خدائی که ندیدم هرگز عبادت نکردم و چون اختلاف
 عقول و اشخاص را دانستی بشنو بعضی از بیابان که پایه آزارند هستند

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در مقام صبر است برآمده تنهای معرفتی کردند ایشان را فرمودند ای
 خاک خاکی انشین خاکسار و اینجا کی طینت خاک زاده خاک نند چریت
 ترا بسم پاک بسم خاکی که سراپا خاکست و تیره و ظلمانی اگر خیال
 در نهایت وسیع باشد هم خیالی است که از این کالبد خاک
 برخاسته هر چه از آن بالاتر تصور کند هم مخلوق است مثل او و او را
 نبرد که بفهمد و بشناسد و آنچه مردم بینا که بجاده یا نفیس
 عقل و دل و خیال آنها صافی شده چشم بصیرتشان گشوده گشت
 ایشان شمران شده می بینند و میفهمند و میشوند چه طور میتوان همه
 کس گفت و همه کن بینند و بفهمند و بشنوند بلکه اینان که چشم

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حق بین دیدند دیگر آنچه از دیگری مطلوبست و تعریف اوست از ایشان
 نهایت قبح خواهد بود چنانچه میفرمایند آنچه نیک را پسندیده است
 گناه مقته بانست در باره مردم بی بصیرت همین اقرار بر بوبیت
 و موت کفایتست و اما معرفت بیان را این پایه نهایت قباحست را
 داد چنانچه فضل اندک حرکت که کفایت زمان سخن او را دارد بجائی رود
 کمال سخن را برای او دارد و اما اگر مردی کامل آن حرکت را بکنند چنانچه
 در انظار مردم بدنامست حضرت امام حسین میفرماید در فقره دعا که
 پروردگار آیا غیر از تو کسی را ظهور یست که ترا ظاهر سازد تو کی پنهان شدی
 که محتاج بدلیل باشی و کی دور شدی که حال خلق تو میخوانند مرا بسوی تو
 دعوت کنند و بتو برسانند کور باد چشمیکه ترا نمی بینند و زیان و
 نقصان شد سرمایه تجارت بنده که قرار ندادی در دل او از دوستی
 خود بهره و نصیبی حضرت صادق در جواب سائل که عرض نمود راست
 که خداوند در روز قیامت دیده میشود فرمودند بمی پیش از قیامت بم
 که دیده شد در روزیکه فرمود انست یربکم و مؤمنان هم در دنیا دیدند
 فرمودند آیا حالانی بینی عرض نمود برای بنیسم ای مولای من اذن بیده
 این معنی را از زبان شما بگویم فرمودند کسی بگویم مردم جاهل انفس را
 انکار می کنند و این را کفر میدانند و حال آنکه دیدن بقلب مثل دیدن
 چشم نیست بدان ای برادر که همیشه این امر را از منافقان پنهان
 داشته اند و گفته اند بلکه کمتر می گفتند و اگر کسی از اهل حقیقت جائی

بود مردم او را بد گفتند و سخره کردند از اینجت بود که پیش گفتم گوش شنوائی
 مردم گرفتند زبان گویند هم از کار ماند حضرت امام زین العابدین علیه السلام
 در چند شعری که معنی آنها این است که من پنهان میکنم از علم خودم جوهر
 و خالص آنرا که جا بجا حق را نمینند و نفهمند چرا که قابلیت ندارند و
 این علم را پیش از این جدم ابوالحسن سید است و پنهان کرد و امام حسین
 و پیش از او امام حسن را همین وصیت کرده بود چه بسیار جوهر و خلاصه علم
 است که اگر آنرا آشکار کنم مرا میگویند توبت پرست شده و هر آینه مردی
 چند از مسلمانان خون مرا حلال خواهند دانست و این کار بر شتی که میکنند
 و مرا میکشند چه قدر بنظر ایشان نیکو نماید حضرت امیر نونان فرمودند
 علمی چند را سید ام که اگر آشکار سازم هر آینه شمارا چنان مضطرب
 کند مثل اضطراب ریاضت در چاه عمیق که پیوسته در حرکت و بمق آن
 نرسد شما هم بهین طور مضطرب خواهید بود حضرت امیر پیغمبر یا
 من با این مردم زمانه راه رستم مثل پرند که متابعت پرند های دیگر کند
 که هر وقت آنها پرواز کنند او هم پرواز کند و هر وقت بالهای خود را
 نمانند یعنی بر هم نزنند او هم متابعت کند بسبب این از دست مردم زمانه چه
 کشیده با وجود پنهان کردن علوم بطوری نور عظمت و کبرای خدا
 جلوه کرد که می بینی و این خیلی فکر میخواهد اگر اوصاف بدی و فکر کنی یک
 خودش و اولادش علم خود را پنهان کردند و ستایش هم آنها که چیزی
 سید استند از ترس دشمنانش پنهان نمودند دشمنانش اگر چیزی فهمید

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از کینه و حسد که داشتند پنهان کردند و با وجود این همه پنهانی آسمان
 و زمین را فرو گرفت است کجاست چشمی بینا که کور که راه نرود به بیند
 و بداند بشناسد و برود ای برادران بنیدام این چه نظم صری بود
 چه طور ظهوری ای حضرت مولی ای علت غائی ای و ای مقصود از آفرینش
 چه بودی ای سیر تکون چون بروز نمودی ای جلوه حق چه طور آشکار
 شدی که همه فکرها در تو متحیر ماند تو چه نظم صری که ز جلوه تو صدای
 سیمه قدسیان کردند ز ذرات امکان که خوشا جمال ازل خوشا خویش را نهان
 ساختی و این طور آشکار شدی که جمیع خدایت خوانند راستی اگر این پرده
 بر میداشتی که چشم کوران باز شد عارف بجلوه میشدند ترا چگونه میشد
 چه میدیدند چه میگفتند شعر اگر چه کور کورانه میشدند اما خداوند را بجهت
 در زیر عرش که کلید آفتاب زبان شعراست این است معنی حدیث که
 مضامین چند اقصای خیال آنها میشود و میگویند ای برادران این
 رساله هدایت نشانه که نوشته ام برای کسانی است که معتقدند مقصودی
 جز راه حق نبودن ندارم و بجز با اهل حق هم گفتگویی ندارم اگر اجداد مایل حق
 سخن حق را ننگست بودند منم نمیگفتم چون آنها صلوات الله علیهم
 بعضی فرمودند منم بیانی کردم مرا هم با آن کسی در باب مذہب نزاعی نیست
 چون سزا ندارد و خود دادند خداوند تعالی میفرماید که بدرستی که خداوند
 از عالم بی نیاز است یعنی محتاج بحسب نیست اگر آنها احتیاجی ندارند
 خود میداند حضرت مولی انصرمونه که رسول مکرم خبر داد چنانکه بطالع

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مانور بود و حسب دستور باید بباطن عمل نمایم و هم بباطن را باز بخلاف
بیان فرمودند چنانچه فرمودند اگر با ذکر بدانند آنچه را در قلب سلمان است
هر آینه او را کافر دانند و در جای دیگر فرمودند هر آینه او را بکشند اینقدر
را بدان که در هر عصری جلوه بود از آدم و قبل از آدم الی خاتم و اکنون
هم هست چنانچه شمارا گفته اند مگر آنکه دیوان العین و شیاطین که لباس
اهل مذهب درآمده در هر عصری مردم را گمراه داشتند و از راه بدر زدند
گمراه نمودند ای برادر از راه دور شدن حاصلش بمقصود رسیدن است
از خط مستقیم راه هر کس جدا شود بمقصود میرسد خواه هزار سال پیش تر از
راه دور افتاده باشد که اول منزل است یا بعد ازین نگار کند و جدا افتد

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از اول خلقت مردم مختلف شدند بعضی از اصل براه نیامدند بعضی قدری آمدند
و چون لشکان ماندند موسویان باغوا ای اهل الهی مذهب که بنابر امور دنیوی و
خواستش های نفسانی خود سخنی چند گفته از راه ماندند و براه نیامدند و عیسویان
هم بهمین طریق بصلوات ماندند بلکه خوب که ملاحظه کنی از راه که دور شدند که هیچ
بوسه ندیدی که اختراعی همین اشخاص دنیا پرست بود این پچارها بطرف دیگر
رفتند و دانستند که مقصود از آفرینش چه بود و اینها کیستند و از گنجایند و بجای
میروند و در زمان نبی عربی هاشمی صلی الله علیه و آله با وجود فرمایش آنحضرت
که فرمود اهل میت من از قرآن جدا نمی شوند که فرقان حق و باطل است تا بر من محض
کوثر وارد شوند و این دو چیز گرانمایه پاکیزه را در میان شما بمانست میگه ارم ما
و امیکه شما بانهاتسک جوئید گمراه نمی شوید بعد از من باز مردم نفس پرست

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خدا شناس هر کس دنباله کاری گرفت و عترت پیغمبر را گذاشت
 و از راه دور شد و بودایی خواست و مگر اسی ماند الی یوم القیامند
 حضرت آدم و انبیای دیگر جلوه که بودند و چسرا آمدند و کوران را رفته
 و از راه ماندند و بجائی نرسیدند اینست که فرمودند بایم
 انبیای پنهان بودم چون عالم را استعداد آن بروز نمود اکنون که
 در عالم و قابلیت در مردم پیدا شد فرمودند با محمد آشکار
 شدم باری چون مقصودم محقق است نزدیک بعضی در کمال اختصار
 پیانی شنائی و دانی تیرسم کلام بطول انجامد و اگر الی یوم القیام بنویسم
 کجی مطلب تمام میشود مگر تو اینقدر را بدان که هر حق کیست تو چشمت را
 باز کن و گوشت را بشو اگر در آن آنوقت نه یک کتاب بلکه هزار کتاب
 خودت بفهم ای عاشق راه حق محبت تو مرا بگفت آورده باز میگویم و
 از او استعانت میجویم بیسی این ماه و آفتاب و ستارها را که گرد
 دارند و روزی میرود و شبی سیاید باز صبح میشود و شام سیاید مردم دنیا
 کهنه و نو میشوند آیند و میروند و سیاه است میشوند هر روزی و شبی
 روی کار سیایند چه بسیار که بودند و رفتند و چه بسیار که نبودند و آمدند
 و میروند اگر بنا بود یک وقتی ظهوری شود تقصیر آنست که نبودند و بعد پیدا
 شدند چه بود یا آنکه پیش بودند و ادراک زمان نکردند چه خواهد بود از کجا
 مردم راه حق را پنداشتند و براه بردند پس در هر عصری باید راهی
 باشد زیرا که مثل مردم مثل طفل است که اگر هر قدر با ادراک باشد

چطور میتواند درک معانی کند معللی اورا باید تا دانا شود یا آنکه نهان
 هر قدر درجات سخن بالا رود راهی زفته است برود پس راه نما
 در هر عصری باید باشد که کمائی که متصل می آیند از آنها دستگیری کنند
 اگر خداوند بخواد ایشان را بنور خود هدایت کرده باشد که فرموده است و یا
 می کنند خداوند بنور خود هر که می خواهد از زمانه چون همیشه یک منزل نیست
 و هر وقتی اقصائی دارد پیشواست که بمقتضای وقت آمد و نمی می کنند
 پس همینکه شیت قرار گیرد که این ظهور تجلی که در این بدن خاکی نموده
 و این بدن خاکی را محال نماید که بشود مثل جانیه که عوض شود به بدن نو دیگر
 در آید مردم را که رعیت هستند نیرسد که بخوابش خود عمل کنند یا کس را
 خود می خواهند بر دارند و اصل را بگذارند پیشوائی که معنی فارسی آن است
 است کار کوچکی نیست که جتیار رعیت باشد محمد و علی هر دو یک نور
 بودند منتها یکی بجهت امتای امر دیگری در میان مردم بدو با حسن جلوه
 نمودند که یکی آن دیگری را بشناساند اگر چه مردم نشناختند بقول سلمان
 فارسی در روزیکه ابو بکر را بخلافت نظر هر برداشته بزبان فارسی گفت کردید و
 نکردید یعنی جانشین برای پیغمبر قرار دادید و در واقع خدا دید باری بطول می بخشد
 و از مطلب و رمی انستی این نور پاک محمد و علی از فاطمه بروز
 نمود دو گوهری که حسن و حسین شد آن نور را کسی نمیتواند خواش کند
 که میفرماید خواسته نور خدا را خواش کند و خداوند نور خود را تمام
 میکند یعنی با بنام میرساند و اگر چه منافقان و مشرکان کراسته داشته

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باشند چه طور میشود آن نور از میان برو و تمام شده بر جبر گردد پس انبیا
 که بعد آمدند چه کنند متابعت کی نمایند کجا بروند و اگر چه نشناسند
 و راه باطل روند باری حجت باید بر خلق تمام باشد ای برادر سخن
 حق یکی و راه حق یکی حضرت زل در زمان رحلت فرمود از هم جدا نمی شوند
 این کتاب و عترت تا روز قیامت نه چنان تصور کنی که جمیع بنی هاشم یا
 سادات از عترت هستند و الا چه بسیار از سادات که ستنی شدند چه حلی
 بامت است و راه نمائی دارد مقام امامت دیگر مقامی است که بر ائمه
 خلیل را بعد از خطاب خلعت فرمودند ترا امام مردم قرار دادیم عرض کرد از ذی
 منم است خطاب رسید که عهد من یعنی امامت بظلمان نمی رسد پس همه
 کس با دعای قرابت نمی توانستند امام قرار داده شوند چه بسیارند که ندیده
 ندارند پس مراد از عترت اوصیای او هستند که راه نمایند و پدر بر پدر و صیای
 داشته اند اینکه تومی بینی مردم هر روز دنبال کی را میگیرند فقط بعد او
 است شیطانست که هر روز با این مردم گوساله دست یکی شده در ضرابه
 ایمان بد چسارگان دیگر میکوشد اگر واقعا هر کسی وصی بود و داخل عترت بود پس
 در عهد امامان سادات دیگر هم بودند اطاعت آنها را مردم چه نکردند
 پس شیطان است که یکت و شخصی را لباس شریعت و بسیاری نماز و
 روزه جلوه میدهد باز می بیند مردم زیاده شدند و اطاعت میکنند و آن پیغمبر
 و اوصیای او بختی میبرند که خداوند قرار داده است حد ذاتی و دشمنی با بنی
 او نمیکند دارد و اینده باین لباس پیرون میآید و مردم را میفریبند و بجهنم میبرد

از عهد پنجم به الی حال که ملاحظه کنی می بینی بچند لباس در آمده بستیزی
 شرکای خود چه طور مردم را فریفته بدام آورده هلاک ساخته بجهنم فرستاده است
 باری این کلاه آخری بود که پنجم فرمود دیگر مردم دنیا پرست که میبایست
 دنیای خودشان را معمور دارند جمعیتی از نادانان را از راه بردند و تا این زمان
 می بینند چه طور گرگان میشش نمایان بچاره گوسفند از ابرند و ناپسند
 نمودند مثل مخلوق مثل گله است و راه نمایشان و این مردم را دنیا پرست
 که دشمن اهل حقند و هر جا فرصتی بدست آمدند مردم را از راه بزند مثل دزد
 است که لباس شبان در آید پاگرد است که لباس شیش در آید در ظاهر
 صورت خدا پرست و در باطن دشمن خدا و خدا پرست این طور که دیدی جلوه
 مینماید اسباب گمراه نمودن مردم است صیاد است شکار است طرأ
 است بهر لباس و بهر طور چنان دین را میبرد و زند که تو نمی فهمی و دنبال ایشان
 میروی اگر مرغ بپاره میتوانست دام را از دانه فرق کند چه بسیار دام
 میآید بلکه بتاعت او مرغان دیگر هم بسوی دام رفته اند که یکی از انبای منس
 خود را بجائی میانشند و بسوی او شتافتند و بدام افتادند ای پراور بعیث
 از راه بیرون مرو چون تور راه را از چاه فرق نمی کنی گیت و فیه سیه سیاهی از
 راه نماد دست بازند از تا قسیمی که این گله بر سر عرض کوثر بر سر نشسته و از
 راه رسیده آنوقت می بینی از این گله چه قدر ستابت چوپان کرده اند
 و سیراب شدند و چه قدر از عقب دزدان شبان نماندند و هلاک شدند
 و باب نرسیدند و تشنه ماندند و ترکان میکنی که رستی در این مردم چیزی است

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بواسطه چهار کلمه زبانی که تفهم همش عربی است میگویند مایا و دارا
 و راه دین را میدانیم دروغ میگویند اینها مثل مردم شعبده باز بدان که بجزیری
 را میسپارند که واقیقت ندارد ولی تومی بسنی علانی توانی بگوئی آنچه
 کردند راست بود چون اگر تو هم اسباب آنها را داشتی و یاد گرفته بودی
 میدانستی هنری ندارد چون نیلانی گمان میکنی هنری است که در قوه کسی
 نیست و آنچه گفت راست گفته ای عزیز گوش بحرف راه نابد از گفته پرو
 مرؤ بگفته این شعبدان دزد و بخت خود را از دست مده اینها دزدند باری
 حضرت امیر فرماید که هر کسی که قلب دارد عاقل نیست نمی توانی بگوئی این
 سر و چشم و گوش که می بیند دزد دارد و دیگران هم دارند میگویند چرا
 او نباشد پس تو خودت فهم داری چرا خود نیستی چنانچه فرمود هر حساب
 قلبی حاصل نیست هر چشم داری بینای معرفت نیست هر گوش
 داری معرفت شنو نیست از این بالاتر بگویم که ایشان انسان میشد
 خداوند در قهر آن فرموده ایشان را دلباست که بآن نمی فهمند خبیث
 که بآن نمی بینند گوشهاست که بآن نمی شنوند ایشان مثل چهارپایان
 بلکه ایشان گمراه ترند و بی شعور تر و دلباشند غافل در این صورت تو
 چرا متابعت غافلان و چهارپایان نبائی و انسان کامل ای بگداری
 تعجب دارم از این مردم که متابعت نمی نکرند و اطاعت و صفتی نمیکند
 بجز خواستش نفسانی را می نیز وند هر چه را دانستند میگویند حکم همین است
 آنچه خودشان می فهمند انکار می کنند حکم خدا را تابع خیالهای خود

کردند هر کسی برای خودش حکمی در آورد حدیثی نقل کرد افزائی بر
 امام بست راستی این مردم چه قدر خطا و خطا کردند حجت خدا را
 گذازدند و انیت در جمتهای مختلف برای خود اختیار کردند در حدیث
 است که حضرت مولا فرمودند آیا خدا این مردم را امر کرد که اینطور اختلاف
 درین کنند که متابعت کردند یا ایشانرا از متفرق و مختلف شدن منع و نهی
 کرد و ایشان معصیت و نافرمانی کردند یا آنکه خدا ایشانرا نقص
 فرستاد که این مردم تمام نکنند یا آنکه اینها شریک خدا بودند که اینها
 چیزی را که میخواهند بگویند و خدا اسم باید بگفته آنها را ضعیف شود که
 قول آنها حکم خدا باشد یا آنکه خدا این را ناقص نفرستاد و تمام فرستاد
 ولی پیغمبر درست بردم گفت و زسانید حکم خدا را تمام بخلق ای
 راستی دست شیطان چه قدر قوی است کار را چه طور بر مردم شسته
 کرده است اینست که مردم مخالفت دین نمودند و از راه دور شدند
 بجهت مخالفت قول پیغمبر که از اول نمودند و دست از عزت برداشتند
 و صیت پیغمبر را ترک کردند خداوند هم سلب توفیق نمودند هرگز
 ایشان را راه نخواهند آمد پیغمبر خدا محمد بن عبد الله هاشمی در میان
 این مردم آمد زحمت کشید و جفا دید جوری که باور ساینده و سستی
 که باو کردند هیچ پیغمبری ننمودند پیغمبر فرمود هیچ پیغمبری مثل
 من اذیت نکشید از قوم این مردم را از بیابان گمراهی و گم شدن
 شهرستان هدایت آورد وین پاینده آسان که خودش فرمود

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من آدم باین آسان برای مردم گذاشت این جملق را از بت ستم
 بیرون آورد آخر علاج هم باز بشیر مولی شد بضر بشیر قری
 براه آمدند آخر مزد پیغمبر چه بود این بود که متصل خودش را از بت گرد
 تا در قید حیات بود بعد از او با ولدش و اوصیای او اینطور نمودند که
 همه میدانید هر وقت دستشان رسید گشتند بگفتند مؤمنان! این
 هر جایاقتند صد مه زوند گمان بردند حال که خدا پرست شدند اسم قرآنی که
 شنیدند و جمعی از وزدان هم که گفتند قرآن را ما خوب میدانیم اینها هم
 عترت را دل کردند اگر ای بی انصافان آن را قبول دارید پس پیغمبری
 که گفت با عترت من از هم جدا نمی شوند یقین قبول ندارید اگر دارید پس
 چرا متابعت نمی کنید یا دیگر را اطاعت میکنید که نمی شناسید اورا بدانید
 که اینخیلما در زمان ابوبکر هم میرفت که از آنها خلیفه پس از خلیفه باید تا روز
 قیامت چون این معنی ثابت شد که خلافت از آنها منقطع گردید باینطور که
 اگر راستی خلیفه بودند بایست تا روز قیامت باقی باشند لذا بعد از
 و برای هدایت مردم موجود باشند پس کو و کجایند جانشینان ابوبکر
 و عمر و عثمان یا آنکه بعد از آنکه خواستند این مردم بدبخت خدا شناس
 بآل رسول خلافت را واگذارند اصل را پایمال کردند و دادند به بنی عباس
 که عباس عمومی پیغمبر بود و از بنی هاشم است با و برسد کسی و
 بخانواده دادند که بعد از پیغمبر همی از خلافت ایشان باتفاق همی گرفتند
 اسلام در میان نبود راستی اگر آنها وصی بودند پس چرا در این زمان

اسمی از ایشان نیست که بجا نیند امروز اولاد عباس بهینکه نسل منقطع شد
 شاهی قوی است بر سلطان خلافت آنها دیگر محتاج بدلیل نیست
 اینک رشته بودند که تاقیاست باقی باشند مگر مردم فهمیم لغرب
 شیطان از راه راست پیرون میروند واللہ خلیفہ رسول باید در عالم باشد
 خواه مردم بشناسند و اطاعت کنند یا نشناسند او باید برای سلطان
 و نظم امور عالم در میان باشد و مردم پدر بر پدر اورا تا پیغمبر حضرت
 مولی بشناسند و الا کس چه میداند شاید امروز اولاد عقیل و عباس
 هم در میان مردم شهرت با اولاد پیغمبر دارند و بر فرض که راستی سید
 هم باشند باید مطیع باشند مثل سایر اولاد حضرت مولی که مطیع بودند بعثت
 و پیروده کسی نمیتواند ادعای حق بکند و هر رای که خودش بخواد برود
 بآل پیغمبر مثل بنی عباس دشمنی کند اینها که تومی بینی در واقع دشمن
 حق و حق پیغمبر چنانچه بنی عباس بودند نیست که دست ایشان بجز
 بدگوئی امروزه نمیرسد و الا اگر میرسد امروز از هیچ چیز برود انداختند
 بلکه می کشند در زمان پیغمبر اولاد او منحصر بن حسین علیها السلام بود که در
 واقع وصی بودند و عزت بودند نه تمام بنی هاشم الله اکبر چه بگویم از د
 مردم بعد از پیغمبر یک فتنه قرآن را از میان بردند کسی در خیال نبود چنانچه
 عزت را خانه نشین گویند اسباب سلطنت فراهم و هیچ با نیکیها نبودند
 و پیغمبر هم مدتی فتح شهرهای عجم و روم را داده بود و شد تا قسطنطنیه
 گرفته شد و زمان عثمان آمد آنوقت بحال افتادند عزت را که حد و کینه

نگذاشت بر دارندگان از قرار همه تواریخ که نوشته اند همه سیدانند نظیر
جمع بود هر کس هر قدر از او نوشته و داشت بخواند عثمان و متابعا بنحیال
و مصلحت خود چیزی که خواستند برداشتند یا افزودند مختصرا بطول نیامد
و آنچه در دست دیگران بود برور سلطنت گرفته و سوخت دست مردم از قرائت
اصل که پیغمبر خبر داد که با عترت است گواه شد باقی عترت ماند آنها را هر قدر
بسی کردند مشیت خدا قرار گرفت و نتوانستند از میان بردارند گشتند و
اذیت کردند ولی هنوز در میان مردم هستند و ان شاء الله تعالی تا قیامت
خواهند بود و راه نمایندگانی را که تابع پیغمبر باشند آنها که نیستند خود را
آلوقت بت از سنگ رامی پرستیدند و گو ساله را حال بهم هیچ فرق نیکند
بسان اعتقاد باقی هستند حال نفس خود را یا حیوانی دیگر را می پرستند چنانچه
پیش از این ذکر شد بلی عترت را از میان بردند ولی بعت در کفایت هر وقت
فرستد یا بید متابعانی را که اندکی شعور داشتند یا هم ندانستند بپاس
دین داری و دافع پیشانی که علامت سجده زیاد بوده فریب داده و هلاک شدند
و از راه بردند ای برادر در این شبهه نیست که آنها که بعد از رحلت
پیغمبر برخلاف وصیت پیغمبر عمل نمودند اصلا دین نداشتند و الله چه طور
میشد بعضی از فرمایشات آنحضرت را شنیدند که نماز بخنید و روزه بگیرید
اما بعضی دیگر را مثلا خلافت مولی یا غیر از اینها را شنیدند باشند بود مگر
از جستی که در اینها اسباب فریب مردم جمع بود ای برادر در خط
نیفتی نمیکریم نماز مکن یا روزه بگیر میگویم فریب نماز مکن و روزه گذاردن مخور

خدا صمد . اینها اسباب فریب مردم که عسل ندارند نمی فهمند مگر آنچه را
می بینند تبع است نشیند که شخصی متصل بان جوهر که خورد و چو قد
ریاضت کشید تازه روزه و حج او ترک نمی شد اینها بجای خلی خوب مگر محبت
مولی را که نداشت آنها هم بارش نمی خورد چه جای آنکه دشمن باشد چون
سخن باینجا کشید تحقیقی از برای حقیقت ایمان و عبادت و معرفت باید بشود
ای برادر اسلام همان اصرار بشهادتین است و این اعمال
ظاهری و این دخلی بایمان ندارد حضرت رسول فرمودند یعنی در قرآن
است که منافقان میفایند بگوئید ایمان داریم بگوئید اسلام
آوردیم مگر وقتی که خدا ایمان را در دل شما بگذارد باین ایمان اسلام
فرق گذارده اند از این تحقیقی که بعون الله بنایم فرق این دو را خواهی یافت
ای برادر بدان چنانچه تقسیم شده است اوقات شب و روزی بوقت
معین که هر وقتی از آن را باید عمل مخصوصی قیام نمائی از برای هر حسنی
چیزی که در تو هست عبادت مخصوصی برای آن مسین فرموده اند عبادت
بدن تو که جسم تست همین اعمال ظاهری است و اما عبادت خیال تو آن است
که از خیالهای مکرده خدا پر سیه نمائی و خیالهای محبوبان خدا را بنمائی
بلکه صورت آنها را در خاطر بگذرانی و از صورت کسانی که دشمن و کینه
پر سیز کنی که خدا از آنها بیزار است تا کم کم در تمام بدن تو بادوستان خدا
آنس گهیری و از دوستان باشی و از دشمنان خدا دور گردی این خیال اگر چه
دخیل عمل ظاهر ندارد و بحسب ظاهر ولی در واقع که تفکر کنی محال بدست را دارد

ع

د

چرا که همین خیال کم کم برستی و راهی که افتاد است از آخر خراب میگردد
دوست شیطان در خیال کمال قوت را دارد و نمی بیننی که اگر در جانی
آتش کنی اگر در دیوار را نوزاند مگر آنکه از دو دسیاه خواهد نمود نفسم
مطلب را و عبادت خیال را بدان و عمل نمائی پس هر کس هر چه دارد
دوست دارد و شب آنرا در خواب می بیند و در حدیث است که در
قیامت هر کس هر چه را دوست داشته خدا او را با محشور میکند اگر چه
نگت باشد پس هر کس با محمد و آل محمد محشور شود معلوم است که ایشان
دوست داشته است و الا با دیگران محشور خواهد شد و اما عبادت نفس
تو آن است که از علومی که در ظاهر علم است و در باطن مورت خرابی پدید
است پسیند کنی و از غضب خدا ترسناک باشی لکن قیامت نیست
هست و جبار نیستم از تو اگر برخلاف رسول عمل کرده باشی انتقام میکند
این صفت ترس از خدا صفت دوستان است پس از علوم غیر از
علوم دین پسیند که نه آنکه خود را معلوم دشمنان خدا بیارائی و با او
خدا باین سبب دشمنی کنی حدیث است که فرمود دروغ میگوید کسی که گمان
می کند از ماست و خود را صفات دشمنان ما پدید آید و نفس و شایع
غیر از ما متکثر شود پس یکی از انبیا بنی اسرائیل وحی رسید که بدو
من بگو با دشمنان من آمیزش نکنند مباد آنها همه دشمن شوند پس یا
بخبر دادستان خدا برایش و جد آمیزش نمودند و دید با آمیزش غرق
چه طور مردم بی شعور ضایع شدند و اما عبادت عقل تو آن است که

همیشه بر یقین باشی و شک را بنمود راه ندی حضرت مولیٰ فرمود
 شک نکنی که اگر شک کردی گناه می‌شود از رحمت خدا یا توسل نفسی
 که صفت دشمنان خداست تا یقین برای شما پیدا شود و اما عبادت
 دل تو آنست که محبت پنج تن آل عبا را در دل داشته باشی و از دست
 مولیٰ و اولادش بیرون زوی و ایشان را بنور ایت بشناسی
 در دل خود که حقیقت تو آنست هر گاه محبت محمد و آل او را در دل پرتی
 عبادت کرده و آل دشمنی داشته خداوند کبر اصل خلقت بدینا فرمود
 بعمل خود مردم بدست ند نشیدی که در حدیث است از حضرت صادق
 که شخصی در حضور حضرت ادهام نمود که خدا یا مرا در بهشت داخل گردان فرمود
 چنین گویم که خدا یا مرا از بهشت بیرون مکن بعلت آنکه شما یا مادام که علی
 که موجب بیرون رفتن باشد نکرده اید در بهشتید پس چون کردید از بهشت
 بیرون می‌روید چون معلوم شد که ایمان همان محبت است در دل حال این
 باب مثالی لازم است که از مثال تو مطلب خواهی فهمید ایمان را در حق
 مفروض دار که ریشه آن در دل تو باشد تنه آن و عقل تو شاخهای قوی
 آن در نفس تو و شاخهای ضعیف آن در خیال تو و برگهای آن در حس
 تو اصل ایمان محبت مولیٰ است اگر اصل که محبت شد و ریشه ایمان است بجا حکم
 باشد هر یک از تنه و شاخ و برگ عیب کند امید رویدن هست و اما
 بخلاف اگر ریشه است که می‌باشد یا شاخ باشد بلکه خراب شده باشد پوسیده باشد
 باز آن وقتی درخت خشک آنوقت بحر هیهت آن چیزی بجایست و آنهم قابل

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سوزن است و بن پس اهل محبت مولی است اگر او که رشته ایمان است
استحکامی نداشته باشد این اعمال ظاهری همه مثل برگ درخت است
اگر هزار من برگ تازه خوش رنگ داشته باشی باز که زمانی خشک
و اندک آتشی همه را میوزاند و اگر محبت قائم باشد و علی بنی مومنی که ذات
خبیث نیست ولی علت بد است آنهم امید است که خدا بخشد و اگر
بر خلاف این شد و ای بر احوالت که هزارها صوم و مسلوله بکار نیخورد
نمی بسینی عمارتی که بنای آن مستحکم نباشد اگر هزار دیوارش را مطلقاً
کمی و نقش نهائی پیکت بادی از پایی میافتد و زحمت و مخارج تو
بعثت خواهد شد بخلاف اگر پایه مضبوط باشد و نقش نداشته شد
ضرری بعمارت نمیرسد مستهای عیشش آن است که تو آزار پاکیزه نداشته
ولی اصل مضبوط است هم چنین است محبت مولی که اصل ایمان
و خیالات دل است که حقیقت است با او هیچ گناهی ضرر نمیرساند و با
دشمن علی هیچ ثوابی نفع نمیرساند دوستی علی کفار و جمیع گناهان است
در حدیث است که خدمت امام عرض نمودند شیعیان شما معای را مرتب
میشوند ما آنهارا فاسق و فاجر بدانیم فرمودند نه شیعه ما از دوستان
ماست و دوست ما از دنیا بیرون نمیرود مگر آنکه گناهان او آمرزیده میشود
در همین دنیا فاسق و فاجر کسی است که دشمن ما باشد دوست ما و دشمن
نیکوست همش خبیث و بد است ولی روح اولیبت ظاهر است و در
روز قیامت باروی سفید محشور میشود چون گناهانش در این دنیا پاک

میشود بواسطه بیماری یا ضرری در امر تجارت یا ظلم ظالمی و کثره چیزی که گناه
 مؤمن بآن آرزیده میشود خواب چون ک است که بسیند و در این معنی حدیثی
 از رسول کریم مذکور است که این مختصر گنجایشش پیش از این بطل کلام را در این معنی
 ندارد چون دانستیم که هر یک از امور ظاهر و باطن ترا عبادتی است مخصوص
 و عبادت عین معرفت است و عبادت هر یک جدا و چیز دیگری است
 پس معرفت چشم تو آن است که این انسان صورت که راه نمائی هست
 بشناسی همین شخص مخصوص است و در ظاهر تمام اسباب انسانیت
 ولی همین چشم نمیتوانی در دل تصور کنی معرفت قلب غیر از دیده است
 و همین است معنی نورانیت که بیش از این نه مریارای گفتم و نشان
 راز نمودن است و نه ترا طاعت شنیدن انشاء الله بر عمت عبادت
 و مجاهده با نفس و معرفت در قلب و یقین در عقل و شناختن و آموختن
 علوم دین و تصورات ادبیای خدا و اعمال ظاهر چنانچه بترقیب ذکر شد
 این مرتبه را خودت در میابی و انشاء الله چون چنین کنی تحصیل آن
 مرتبه را نموده از تست طلب این مراتب و برادست که التو سلب توفیق نماید
 بدان ای برادر دو مطلب را باید متوجه باشی یکی آنکه در این مختصر این
 مراتب و مطالب عالی را بکار بر دهم و درج نمودم باین عبارات و وضع دلایل
 و از احادیث و آیات اصلاحت و از نمودم ثنائی این که گفتگو و روی صحبت
 با همه مخلوق نیست مقصودم آنهاییست که متابع خدا و رسول میباشند
 با دیگران کثی و کاری ندارم اگر مستغفران هم پس از شناسختن نعمت خدا انکار

۷۴

۷۵

کنند مختارند سخن را روی صاحب دلالت بدان ای برادر
 ای که الله تعالی که در صد کتاب وعده دو مطلب داد یکی سرفتن
 و حقیقت دین و یکی طریق سلوک با برادران دینی و لای چون کوفتی
 سخن بر سر روز قیامت و حجت در آن روز رسید و تفصیل در آن
 محل دور از وضع رساله بود و غیره بیانی داده شد پیش از شروع
 بطریق سلوک مناسبت که از اجمالاً ذکر نمایم و الله

الموفق والعین بدانید ای برادران که

فرمودند حساب خود را بکنید قبل

از آنکه حساب شما را بنمایند

و در مقام حساب

ده آید

تمام شد

رساله در حقیقت دین از تصنیفات مرحوم آقا شهاب الدین شاه

الحسینی بتاریخ پنجم شهر محرم الحرام ۱۳۵۲

منتشر به آصف علی اصفهانی بیستر سترتری اسلامی ریح

ایسوسی ایشن ۴۶ چوپاتی رود بسبب

در مطبعه مظفری نمره ۱۴ میرزا علی استریت عمکداری بی پست نمبر ۹ طبع گردید

به تمام آقا میرزا کریم ستیرازی

بِسْمِ اللّٰهِ الرَّحْمٰنِ الرَّحِیْمِ
 چنین گوید علام آستان حضرت شهابی آقا ع.
 روح فدا شهاب الدین بخینی چون بعضی از برادران
 دینی که ادای حقوق ایشان را بر خویشان واجب میداشت
 خواهش رساله مختصری نمودند که سرمایه نجات اخروی
 باشد برای ایشان و هم آیین سلوک در دنیا با اخوه
 مؤمن خویشان را دانسته که نماز ایشان را الله نصاب
 بجا برزند و دستکار شوند رحب مراد ایشان از خدا

Specimen of Shihabu'd-din Shah's handwriting.
 (Facsimile of the first page of the Risala).

نمونه خط شهاب الدین شاه مرحوم

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Brother, you have to note two things : first, that in this short treatise I have spoken concerning high spiritual subjects, explaining them in plain and simple terms, [75] which are not overburdened with quotations of the *ḥadīths* or verses from the Coran. Secondly, that it was of no use to address all this to everybody, and the treatise was intended only for those who follow the commandments of God and of His Prophet, recognizing him as such. I have nothing to do or argue about with others. And even if those who are concerned, after reading this will not realize how great a blessing God gives them,—it is their own business. What I say is addressed to those who have the capacity to understand this.

At the beginning of this book I promised to deal with two questions : one of them was the knowledge (*ma'rifat*) and the truth (*ḥaqīqat*) of the religion. The second was about the ways of living piously among brethren in religion. But before starting the question of the rules of such life, I had to explain the matter connected with the Day of Resurrection, and the shame that some people will have to feel, as this subject was connected with my discussion, which was outside the scope of the work.

God help us in this. Brother, remember what is said : settle your own accounts before others demand this from you, and the question of accounts is raised.

contrary, if the foundations are reliable, and only the walls have no paint on them, the building is indeed, strong. It only shows that you have not kept it clean, but the structure itself is reliable.

The same is the case with love for the Mawlā which is the foundation of faith (*īmān*), and of worship with the heart,—your truth (*ḥaqīqat*). No sin can ruin it, so long as it is alive. But if there is (in the heart) any feeling of hostility towards 'Alī, no meritorious act will be of any help,—love of 'Alī only obliterates all sins.

It is narrated that some one said to an Imam : ' Your followers create disturbances, and therefore we regard them as villains and rioters '. The reply was : ' No, our followers (*shī'a*) are our friends, and our friends never leave this world without their sins having been forgiven. In this [73] world the villain and the rioter is only he who is our enemy.'

There are, indeed, stupid friends, whose actions may be objectionable or harmful, but their intentions and purpose are good and pure. On the Day of Resurrection they will rise clean (*rū-safid*), as their sins will be forgiven in this world, having been punished by illness, or losses in trade, or by the oppression of the wicked ; there are also the minor sins of the faithful, for which they will experience a dreadful dream.

With regard to this a *ḥadīth* is related from the Prophet, but we shall omit it for the sake of conciseness.

Now you see that your every action, whether spiritual or ordinary (*bātinī wa zahiri*), is concerned with some special form of worship. But worship is nothing but knowledge, *ma'rifat*,—they are inseparable one from the other, nor can they be different. Thus the higher knowledge (*ma'rifat*) of your eye is to recognize the image of that human face in the pupil of your eye, which is that of one who guides you to the right path, knowing that he is exactly that person. He, the Guide, comes [74] with all the features of the ordinary man.

But with eyes alone you cannot hold his image in the heart too,—the inner vision, of the heart, is different from the vision of the eye ; what the heart sees is Luminousness (*nūrāniyyat*). I cannot tell you more than this about its meaning,—this is a secret matter which you are unable to understand.

Thus, with the help of God, in labour and worship, in the struggle with your own evil impulses, with the spiritual knowledge kept alive in your heart, with certainty in reason, with study and the acquisition of a religious education (*'ulūmī dīn*), with the vision of the saints of God and of their example in the heart, by the discharge of your duties, you will attain a high degree of spiritual refinement, as it has been systematically explained. If you do all this, you may attain the degree which you seek. You have to seek it, and it depends on Him not to leave you without a chance.

because doubt is the feature of His enemies ; so, let you always be firm in your religious opinion'.

Worship with the heart (*dil*) consists in always feeling great affection for the Five Members of the Prophet's Family (*Panj tani āli 'abā*), never abandoning love for the Mawlā and his descendants, recognizing them in your hearts as leading lights,—they should be your (only) Truth. Whenever you feel love for Muḥammad and his Family, you have worshipped God in your heart.

God regards [70] all those who do not act in this way as His enemies. God never created anything bad,—the people became bad by their own actions. Did you not hear a *ḥadīth*, related from Imam Ja'far Ṣādiq, that someone prayed God in his presence, repeating: 'God, let me enter Paradise!' The Imam said: 'Do not pray in this way, but say: God, do not expel me from Paradise.' The reason is that so long as you do not do anything punishable by expulsion from Paradise, you remain in Paradise. And you have left it as soon as you have done something wicked.

11. (FAITH,—*īmān*)

It is clear now that faith (*īmān*) is nothing but love in the heart. And, in order to make it quite easy to understand, we may give here an example.

Faith (*īmān*) is like a tree, the roots of which go into the heart ; its trunk is in reason, and its branches are in the instincts, while imagination is its new shoots and leaves—(senses of) the body. The foundation (*aṣl*) of faith is love for the Mawlā. And if this [71] foundation, i.e. this love, and the roots of faith are strong and in good condition, all other parts of the tree, such as its trunk, its branches and leaves, can be expected to continue to flourish even if they are (accidentally) damaged. If, however, on the contrary, the roots are not well grounded, or even rotten, the whole tree will soon dry, and then will become good for nothing except to be used as fuel. Thus love for the Mawlā is everything, being the root of faith. If it is not strong all the acts of outward piety (*a'mālī zāhiri*) which are like leaves of the tree, will fade. If you have a thousand *mans* of leaves, fresh and of good colour, they will dry in a short time, and then a very small fire will be sufficient to burn them completely.

If you have love (for the Mawlā), even if you do not show much outward piety, you, nevertheless, remain a *mu'min*, faithful, as your nature is not yet bad, and it is only your behaviour which is not good ; it may be hoped that God may forgive this. But if it is otherwise,—woe to you ! Then thousands fasts and prayers will be [72] of no use. Do you not see that if a building has no sound foundations, it will fall down at the first blast of wind, even if you gild all its walls, and paint them with beautiful patterns,—making all your labours and expense a waste. On the

examples of saints (*maḥbūbān*) ; one must even keep their vision (*ṣūrat*) continuously in his heart, and cultivate disregard [67] for the enemies of the religion, whom God rejected. Gradually your whole body will be filled with adoration for them, and you will yourself become one of the friends of God, who has nothing to do with His enemies.

This permanent thinking about the saints of God does not form one of those duties which are prescribed for outward piety (*ʿamali zāhir*) : but, if you consider this properly, it is all-important : it is the thought which in all its ways and forms gradually brings man to ruin, and it is in the thought that the hand of the Devil is particularly active ; just as if fire is set inside a house, it makes its walls and doors black of smoke, even if it does not burn them completely. Do realize this, and strive to attain 'piety of thought'. Is it not true that one is attached to what he possesses, and even sees it in his dreams ? It is said in a *ḥadīth* : 'On the Day of Resurrection God will make every one [68] rise amongst the things to which he was attached, even if those were simply stones'. Therefore, every one who is particularly attached to Muḥammad and to the Family of Muḥammad, will be associated with them on the Day of Judgment, and thus it will become apparent to everybody that he was attached to them during his life, as otherwise he would rise amongst other people.

Worship by instincts of the lower self (*nafs*) consists in abstaining from knowledge which may appear as ordinary knowledge, but in reality is intended to undermine religion. One has to avoid it, as otherwise one will have to fear the wrath of God.

Do not say : there is no such thing as Resurrection of the dead. There is, and the One Who avenges and punishes, will avenge. This fear of displeasing God is characteristic of His (real) friends. Thus you must abstain from acquiring learning that is incompatible with true piety. One must not adorn oneself with the sciences of enemies, thus estranging the friends of God from himself.

It is said : 'One who doubts is a liar. He is one from amongst us, but disguised in the form (*ṣifāt*) of enemies, in every respect clinging to others rather than to ourselves.'

One of the Israelite Prophets [69] received an inspiration (*wahy*) : 'Tell My friends : do not mix with My enemies, lest they, by chance, should themselves become hostile to Me' ; therefore one must mix only with the friends of God. Did not you see how many ignorant people perish by acting otherwise ?

Worship by reason (*ʿaql*) consists in permanently being in the state of strong conviction (*yaqīn*), never permitting any doubt to crawl in. The Lord (*Mawlā*) said : 'Never permit yourselves to have a doubt (in religion) : as soon as you permit one to arise, you become unbelievers (*kāfir*), deprived of the mercy of God,

hit the earth at their prostrations, and they mislead them and cause them to perish.

Brother, there is no doubt that those who after the demise of the Prophet usurped the leadership, in contravention of his last will (*waṣīyyat*), never had any real faith (*dīn*),—otherwise, by God, how could such a thing have happened? They knew some of his commandments, such, for instance, [65] as regards prayers (*namāz*), or fast, etc. But they have not heard other commandments, such as concerning the appointment of the Lord ('Alī) as his lieutenant, and other things,—these they have not heard! Surely, this is nothing but fraud, intended for misleading the people.

Brother, do not make a mistake: I do not say: 'do not pray', or 'do not fast'; what I say is: do not permit yourself to be cheated by those who ostentatiously pray much, or talk much about fasting. Their show of piety is intended only to deceive others, who are not clever enough to understand this, and only follow uncritically what they see. They hear that so-and-so continuously lives only on barley bread, and vinegar, praying much, or fasting, or performing many pilgrimages. All these things are very proper, and very laudable, but if these people have no love for the Lord (Mawlā), all this will scarcely help them.

9. (THE TRUE RELIGION)

Now that we come to matters like these, we have to see what is the true religion? What is the true worship (*'ibādāt*), and the true religious knowledge (*ma'rīfat*)?

Brother, profession of Islām is the assertion in two formulas of profession (*shahādātayn*). The uttering of these belongs to the outward side of piety, [66] which has nothing to do with the real, genuine *faith*. The Prophet in the Coran itself says to the dissemblers (XLIX, 14): 'Do not say: we believe: but say: we profess Islam. Only God can put faith in your hearts.' There is a difference between faith (*īmān*), and the mere outward profession (*islām*), as the Prophet emphasized. We may complete, with the help of God, the examination of this subject.

10. (FORMS OF WORSHIP)

If you want to find this difference, brother, know that, as mentioned above, the day and the night should be properly divided into three equal sections, each devoted to some special purpose. Each has its own form of devotion, which is prescribed for it.

Worship with one's own body is the discharge of one's ordinary (*zāhiri*) duties (*a'māl*). The worship with one's thought (*khayāl*) consists of abstention of vile thoughts, prohibited by God, of concentration on good and pious subjects as found in the

now. Every one possessed some portions of it, which he recited. Under 'Uthmān the authorities selected some portions, rejecting others. It would be too long to narrate this in detail. Then they seized by force all the other copies, and burnt them.¹ Thus the knowledge of the original Coran, which was really left by the Prophet, and which remains in the hands of his 'īrat, or legitimate successors, was taken from the people. But these legitimate lieutenants of the Prophet still remained. Therefore they, the enemies, tried their best (to annihilate them), but the will of God had to be fulfilled, and the 'īrat remained. They used to kill and torture the successors of the Prophet, and yet they still exist in the world, and, if God the Allhigh wishes, they [64] will remain till the end of the world, showing the right path to those who follow the Prophet. And those who do not follow him,—they have to take the responsibility upon themselves. They worshipped a stone idol, or a cow, and they still remain in the same position, their belief still remains the same, only now they worship their own lower self, or some other beast, as was explained above.

They have opposed the 'īrat of the Prophet, and whenever they find an opportunity, they do their best to seduce the more ignorant amongst their followers, coming amongst them in the disguise of piety, with their foreheads bearing the marks of having

¹ As is well known, the question of the origin of the version of the Coran, as it is at present, is a difficult matter, full of rather doubtful points. It appears as if there was not very much interest towards it immediately after the death of the Prophet. Abū Bakr entrusted the work of collecting the Coran to Zayd b. Thābit. Later on we find that what was collected was in private possession of Hafsa, the daughter of 'Umar (cf. Ibn Sa'd, III/1, 212). Practically nothing was done in this respect by 'Umar. At the time of 'Uthmān there already were several versions in existence, one, by 'Abdu'l-lāh b. Mas'ūd, in Kūfa; another by Abū Mūsā 'Abdu'l-lāh al-Ash'arī, in Bayra; the third, by Miqdād b. 'Amr, in Hims (Syria); the fourth, by Ubay b. Ka'b, in Damascus (cf. Ibn Sa'd, III/1, 114-6). This difference in the text of the sacred book caused great inconvenience in practical life, and, under pressure from the side of the local governors, 'Uthmān appointed a sort of a 'commission', using the modern term, for the revision of the text, consisting of the same Zayd b. Thābit, mentioned above, 'Abdu'l-lāh b. Zubayr, Sa'id b. al-'Āṣ, 'Abdu'r-Rahmān b. al-Hārith, and others (Ibn Sa'd, V, 19-24). What were the functions of every one amongst them, and what they really have done, is not clear. Ultimately the present version came into existence, and the different versions, as is usually narrated by even the most orthodox historians, were collected and burnt. Quite probably, of course, some isolated copies escaped the destruction; some of such instances are known. We have no information whether there existed a special version preserved amongst the Alides, and their supporters. The usual tradition, preserved by the Shi'ites, about the omission of all references to 'Alī and his rights, originally contained in the Coran, cannot be verified at present, but seems to be highly probable, if we consider the attitude of the circles in which the official version was prepared. The author, quite naturally, accepts the tradition which is regarded as absolutely true by all Shi'ites.

lieutenants (*waṣī*) of the Prophet, why does no trace of their authority remain nowadays? Where are now the Abbasides? But if they have disappeared, this is an unshakeable proof of their claims having been false,—what other proof is required? They were not the members of the line of the real khalifs, whose continuity cannot be interrupted till the Day of Resurrection. This means that the ignorant people were duped and fooled by the Devil.

By God, a (real) lieutenant (*khalīfa*) of the Prophet must always be present in this world, regardless of the fact whether the people recognize him, or not, obey him, or not. He is to be here for the guidance of those who obey the commandments of God (*muṭī'ān*), and for the introduction of order into this world, with its affairs. The people should know and recognize his descent from the Prophet and from the Lord ('Alī), generation after generation. Otherwise no one can know whether they really descend from the Prophet,—probably nowadays there are many descendants of 'Uqayl or 'Abbās who are known as the descendants of the Apostle of God; but though they are real Sayyids, they must be only subjects (*muṭī'*), just like [62] ordinary descendants of the Lord ('Alī), who were obedient to him (and to the Imams).

No one should claim any right by fraud or false pretences, nor should any one claim to do whatever he pleases, adopting a hostile attitude towards the descendants of the Prophet, just as the Abbasides did. Those whom you can see were really enemies of the Path of the Truth, and of the legitimate lieutenants of the Prophet, as the Abbasides were,—this is why they cannot do anything nowadays except abusing (their opponents). But had they any authority nowadays, they would surely not care about any consideration, and would kill all descendants of the Prophet, just like they used to kill our ancestors.

At the time of the Prophet only Ḥasan and Husayn were his '*ītrat*', or legitimate successors, and not all the members of the Hashimite tribe. Gracious God! How should I describe how the people treated them. Immediately after the death of the Prophet the people began to disregard the Coran. Nobody even remembered about the '*ītrat*', or the legitimate successors of the Prophet, who used to keep away from the public gaze. As soon as they snatched authority, they forgot about all these things.

The Prophet [63] had predicted the capture of the cities of Persia and of Byzantium, and so it happened. Many cities were occupied till the time of 'Uthmān, when the people began to think about the '*ītrat*', but the envy and hatred of enemies did not permit the people to instal them in their rightful place.

8. (THE CORAN)

It is recorded in all histories, and every one knows how the Coran was written down. It was not yet in the form as it is

All this disobedience on the part of the people, who became misled, was due to the opposition to the command (*qawl*) of the Prophet; it began at the earliest time when they dissociated themselves from the *'īrat*, or the rightful lieutenants, and did not obey the last will (*waṣīyyat*) of the Prophet. God did not give them His help, and they will never be saved.

Thus it may appear that the Arabian Hashimite Prophet of God came to this people, suffering difficulties, insults, hostility, and injustice which he experienced more than any other Prophet, for nothing. He himself said: 'No other Prophet experienced so many difficulties as myself from the people'. He delivered the people from the desert of despair and hopelessness, and [59] brought them to the abode of righteousness (*hidāyat*). He has given them a pure and easy (i.e. human) religion, as he said himself: 'I came, bringing the people an easy religion',—he delivered the people from idolatry. And yet at last the sword of the Lord became necessary, and only by blows of his sword did the people come to some extent to the right path. And what was at last the reward of the Prophet? The people made himself suffer continuously so long as he lived, and after his death they treated his descendants and legitimate lieutenants (*awṣiyā*) in the way which every one knows. Whenever they could, they killed them, they calumniated them and their supporters, submitting them to tortures wherever they were found. In spite of this they thought that they worshipped God, only because they heard the name of the Coran. But even those thieves who dissociated themselves from the *'īrat*, used to say that they accepted the Coran. O ye, impudent liars, if you accept the Coran of the Prophet, who said that his Coran cannot be divorced from his *'īrat*, [60] which you reject, then how do you accept the Coran? And if you really accept it, why do not you follow his legitimate lieutenants? Or do you follow some one whom you do not know yourselves? Realize that all these false ideas already existed at the time of Abū Bakr, when it was believed that there would be khalifs from amongst them, one after another, to the last day.

The khilafat started by them, which would be expected to continue uninterrupted to the Day of Resurrection, came at once to the end, as is known; but, if they were real khalifs sent for the guidance of the people, they should always be in existence. But where are the legitimate successors of Abū Bakr, 'Umar, and 'Uthmān? And if these impious and ill-starred people wanted to give the khilafat, after these first khalifs, to the descendants of the Prophet, why did they trample under their feet his direct descendants, giving the authority to the Abbasides, because 'Abbās was an uncle of the Prophet, and was a Hashimite. Thus the khilafat was given to a family on whose behalf rights were never claimed at the demise of the Prophet, by a single of [61] the different Islamic groups. But if they were the real legitimate

[55] All this is a lie,—they are mere tricksters, showing you something that does not really exist. But when you watch them, you cannot get away from the impression that what you see really is so. If you had their implements and knew their art, you would realize that there is nothing in it; but, as you do not know this, you believe that they possess some special ability which other people have not, and that what they say is true.

My friend, listen to what the real Leader (*rah-namā*) says, and never disobey his orders; do not permit the tricksters and thieves to fool you,—they are nothing, but thieves.

The Commander of the Faithful said: ‘Not every one who has courage (*qalb*) is acute. You cannot tell a thief from his appearance,—he has the same head, eyes, ears, etc., as other people have, and you have yourselves,—then [56] are not *you* thieves? It is said: not every daring man is reasonable, just as not every one who has good sight can see the mysteries of religious knowledge, nor every one who hears well can hear the truth of *ma’rifat*. I may tell you even more: these wicked people are even below the level of the ordinary man. It is said in the Coran: ‘They have hearts with which they do not feel anything, they have eyes which do not see, and ears which do not hear. They are like beast, nay, more miserable, and stupid than beasts’ (VII, 178). Why then should you follow them, who are like beasts or imbeciles, and why should you not follow the Perfect Man (*Insāni kāmīl*)? I cannot understand the people who did not follow the Prophet, and do not obey his lieutenant. They follow only their bestial impulses, and think that the Divine orders are only those which they know. All that they cannot understand, [57] they entirely reject. They represent the Divine Will as if it follows their own inventions (*khayāl-hā*), every one inventing something of his own, falsifying a *ḥadīth*, or tradition (*naql*), attributing his own falsehoods to Imams. What enormous mischief have these people really done! They neglect the indications (*hujjat*) given by God, inventing a profusion of proofs themselves.

It is related that Our Lord (*ḥadrati Mawlā*) said: ‘Did God command these people to introduce so many differences into religion, and have they obeyed His command, or did God command them to avoid these differences and discord, and have they disobeyed Him? Or did God reveal the religion (*dīn*) incomplete so that the people may perfect it? Or are they companions of God who may introduce whatever they like, and God should consent to this, and what they say should also be regarded as a command [58] of God? Or is it that though God did not reveal the religion incomplete, but quite perfect, the Prophet did not convey it properly to the people, and did not bring to them complete what God ordered?’—Brother, verily the hand of Shaytan is strong, and how difficult he makes life for people!

Verily, if every one could be treated as a lieutenant (*wasī*) of the Prophet, and a member of the '*ītrat*, then why was it that at the time of the Imams, when there were also many other Sayyids, the latter were not regarded by the faithful as their leaders? It is Shaytan who sometimes disguises himself as a pious man, who strictly follows the prescriptions of *shari'at*, devoting much time to prayer, fast, etc. But in spite of this, he sees that there are many faithful who, nevertheless, follow the rightful successors of the Prophet (*awṣiyā*), as is their right, and as it was appointed by God. His (Devil's) innate envy, and constitutional hatred towards them prevents him to come in their guise, and to cheat and mislead people, directing them to Hell. See, how many people are seduced from the covenant of the Prophet by Shaytan, who appears to them in so many disguises, helped by his associates; see how he nets the unfortunate dupes in his snare, making them all perish and go to Hell.

O, (God, these words (about the '*ītrat*) were the last words that the Prophet has uttered before he died.

And then [53] the people who were entirely absorbed in the matters of this world, and who might be expected to be its real masters, could do nothing better than to mislead a number of fools. Even now you can see how these wolves in lambs' skins treat the unfortunate and stupid sheep. The people are like a flock of sheep, and the shepherd is to show their way. But those who worship nothing but material pleasures, and who hate those who seek after the Truth (*ahli Haqq*), they, whenever there is an opportunity, seduce the people, coming like thieves disguised like the shepherd of the flock, or wolves who appear like lambs. They are devout in appearance, exhibit all the signs of piety, all only in order to deceive the people. There is no scarcity of villains, cheats and thieves in any dress: they steal the faith in such a dexterous way that you do not even notice it, and you follow them with all confidence.

If the [54] unfortunate bird could distinguish between the ordinary seed, and that which forms the snare, why should it come into the net, and even lead other birds after itself,—those who flock into the snare seeing there one of their species? Brother, do not stray from the right path at every slight provocation. If you cannot see properly where is the road and where the pit, you will surely fall into the pit. Do not take off your hand from your Guide until the herd has reached the tank of Kawthar to quench its thirst. Only then can you see how many in the herd have followed the shepherd, and quenched their thirst at last, and how many followed the thief pretending to be the shepherd, and perished never reaching the water. Do you really think that these people have anything true in their possession? They pretend to know the right path by uttering (the formula of) four words in Arabic, by the mere movement of their tongues.

same Divine Light, but they came in two different persons (*libās*,—dress) in order to uphold each other's mission amongst humans, and in order to introduce each other to the people. However, the people did not recognize them. Salmān Fārsī said in Persian, on the day when Abū Bakr was in appearance (*zāhir*) elected khalif: '*kardid—na-kardid*', i.e. 'you have done this, and yet you have not done it'. He meant that they had appointed a lieutenant to the Prophet, and yet, [50] in reality, nothing had been done. But this is a long story, O, God!

The sacred Light which manifested in Muḥammad and 'Alī continued in the world through Fātima, in her sons, Ḥasan and Husayn, and no power in the world can extinguish this Light. It is said: 'they wanted to extinguish the Light of God, but God brings His light through, to the end', i.e. to the completion of its mission.

Even if traitors and apostates dislike this, how can this Light disappear from the world? Or how should it return to its Source without accomplishing what it was destined to accomplish?

Therefore those people who are born later, what have they to do, and whom have they to follow, so as not to stray from the right path? And even if they do not recognize it, and wantonly go on a wrong path, God, nevertheless, has to send a Guide (*ḥujjat*), who should be always with them.

Brother, the word of the Truth is one, and the road to the Truth is one. The Prophet said at the time of his demise: 'this book (the 'Coran), and this my posterity (*'itrat*) should never be separated, till the day of Resurrection.' [51]

Do not imagine, however, that *all* members of the Hashimite tribe, or even all descendants of the Prophet, the Sayyids, are the '*'itrat*, the 'close relations'. In truth, many Sayyids have become Sunnites,—what have they to do with the Imamāt and the leadership on the right path? Imamāt is a matter of a different nature. When Abraham received his title of the Friend of God, Khalilū'l-lāh, he was told: 'We have appointed thee the Imam of the people'. He asked: 'Should the office remain also with my posterity?' The reply was: 'My covenant with regard to the Imamāt will not fall into the hands of the wicked. All people who claim to be your close associates cannot be appointed Imams, for many of them have no real piety.'

Therefore the meaning of the '*'itrat*, or the (rightful) successors, belongs only to the legitimately appointed successors, *awṣiyā*. It is they who can show the right path, and who rightfully, from father to son, have inherited their rank of leader.

As you can see every day, the crowd flocks after some individual, for no other purpose than to show its hostility to us. It is the devil who mixes with the crowd which is as stupid as a calf, [52] cheats them and destroys their faith, in one after another.

Do understand that the Word of God (*kalima'i Haqq*) is only one. Open your ears and eyes, and then you will be able to understand not only a single book, but thousands of books.

Ye who are in love with the Truth! Only out of affection for you did I begin speaking to you, praying for His help! Look at the sun, the moon, and the stars which continuously move in their eternal paths; the day goes, and the night arrives, and again the morning dawns, and evening descends; the world becomes old, and then revives; those who must come, come, and pass on, and things that did not exist come into existence. Every day new workers come to the task regardless of how many there were before, and how many are gone, and regardless of how many of them were not there, and come but to go again.

If it were destined that a Manifestation (*zuhūr*) of the Divine Substance should take place at some time, what should be the fault of those who were not yet born at that time? [48] Or of those who lived before it, or did not recognize it? What have they to do, and how can people find the way of Truth, how can they follow it?

7. ('Itrat, or 'Close Relatives')

It is obvious, therefore, that there must be in the world a Supreme Leader (*rah-namā*) at every time, every moment. Humanity are like children,—they may be clever in their own way, and yet there are many things that are beyond their power of comprehension. Therefore they need a teacher, who may give them necessary knowledge. Even an adult, however aged he may be, needs a guide in the matters in which he had no previous experience. Thus there is a great need for a guide to help the people, at every time or moment, if God wishes to lead all who are continuously being born, to the knowledge of His light. And He Himself revealed that he does wish this: 'God leads to His Light those whom He wants to lead'. Times differ one from the other, every period of time has its own destinies and history. The Leader of humanity is one who commands some things and prohibits other things in accordance with the requirements of the time. [49] But in the continuous change of life which never stops, if the Divine Manifestation (*zuhūr*) is to take place in an ordinary mortal body, the latter, inevitably, has to become old and worn out, like clothes of man, and ultimately it would be necessary to replace it with a new one.

Ordinary people whose duty is only to obey the command of God, have no capacity to act as they wish or to elect (as their leader) any one whom they want, disregarding the real one. Leadership, which is the real meaning of the term *Imāmat*, obviously is a matter of the greatest possible importance, which cannot be left to the decision of the mob.

Muhammad and 'Ali both were manifestations of one and the

and till the time of the Final Prophet (i.e. Muhammad). It is present even now in the world, as it was said to you. Only the accursed ones and the devils posing as pious men strictly attached to religion, always prevent people from seeing this, misleading them from the right path, and dooming them to damnation.

Brother, to walk by circuitous paths (often) means not to reach the destination. Whoever deviates from the straight road, never reaches his aim. It is the same whether he deviates from it for the distance of many thousand years, from its first station, or he abandons it later on, and strays from it. People are different in their destiny: [45] some of them do not strike the right road at all, others go along it for a distance, and then stop as the lame. The Jews stopped on it, being persuaded by their religious leaders who were concerned only with their own material advantage. They revealed some knowledge, but later on they misled the people from the road, and never struck it again. The Christians also erred in their way, and remained behind.

If you look properly, you will see that every one was misled not by the incorrectness of religion, but by the ill-will of the lovers of material pleasures. These unfortunate people strayed, not knowing what was the purpose of creation, who they were themselves, from where they came, and where they had to go.

The Arabian Hashimite Prophet (God bless him and his posterity) said that his successors, the members of his family (*ahli Bayt*), cannot be separated from the Coran which is (the book) showing the difference between what is right (*haqq*) and what is wrong (*bātil*): by these his people may return to him, at the tank of Kawthar. He said: [46] 'And these two sacred and pure things I leave amongst you as a security. So long as you cling to these, you will never be lost on your way after me.' But in spite of this commandment of the Prophet the selfish people became preoccupied with other matters, forgetting all about the command concerning the 'close relatives', *'itrat*, of the Apostle of God, straying away from the right path and falling for ever into the pit of temptations and depravity. They did not realize whose manifestations were Adam and the other Prophets, and for what purpose they were sent. They followed their way blindly, and lost it ultimately, thus missing their destination.

This is why it is said: 'I was hidden with all the Prophets, because the world was not yet ready. But now that the world is prepared, and the people are capable of understanding, I became apparent with Muhammad.'

O, God, my purpose is to express myself in such a way that my words should be clear and easy to understand, concisely and plausibly conveying my meaning. I am afraid [47] that this subject may be somewhat long to deal with. Because even if I write on it till the day of the Resurrection, how can I do justice to a subject of such importance?

from fear of molestation at the hands of his enemies; and his enemies, even if they could learn anything, would keep it secret from hatred and envy. Yet in spite of all this concealment the mystery became known from the heaven to the earth! Where is the eye which is so blind as to be unable to see this, to realize this, and to know this.

Brothers, I do not know what was this Manifestation, and how it came into existence. [42] O our Lord, O Ultimate Cause of Creation, O final Purpose of Creation,—what wert Thou, O impenetrable Mystery? How didst Thou bring Thyself into existence? O Thou, Light of Truth, how didst Thou reveal Thyself in such a way that every thought in the world became astounded! What substance dost Thou manifest that from Thy emanations the voice of the praising angels was created from the atoms of the limitless space! Blessed be Thou, O Eternal Beauty! Blessed be Thou, who hast concealed Thyself, and yet art so universally apparent! So much that many called Thee God! Verily, if Thou wouldst lift this veil from Thyself, even the eyes of the blind would be opened, and they would become wizards by this light. How then would humanity find Thee, how could they see, and what should they say!

Though poets are generally very blind, yet there are some corners under the Divine Throne to which the tongue of poets is the key. This is the meaning of the *ḥadīth* in which it is said that some topics are suitable [43] subjects of their fantasy.

Brother, this instructive treatise is written by me for the people who possess the faith. I have no other purpose except to show them the right path. I do not address it except to the people who follow Truth (*ahli Haqq*). If my forefathers had not spoken addressing the believers in Truth (*ahli Haqq*), I would not address them also. But as my forefathers (the blessing of God be upon them!) did so, so I also had to speak. I do not argue with any one about the truth of his religious persuasion,—let everyone believe in what he likes.

God the Almighty says: 'Verily God is not dependent on the world', i.e. He is not in need of anything from His creatures. And if they have no need of Him,—it is their own business.

Our Lord (i.e. 'Alī ibn Abī Ṭālib) says that the Prophet had delivered his message, and, being entrusted with the outer side of religion (*ẓāhir*), he carried on the war for religion (*jihād*). 'And I (i.e. Mawlā 'Alī) am concerned with the *bāṭin*, or the deeper meaning of religion.' He explained the meaning of *bāṭin* in different ways. [44] As is found in the well-known tradition,—'if Abū Dharr would know what is in the heart of Salmān, he would regard him as an unbeliever', or, as is said in another place,—he would kill him. It suffices to know that in every epoch or a (millennial) period of time there is, and always was a manifestation of the Deity, from the time of Adam, and even before Adam,

blind that cannot see Thee ! Ruined be the capital in the trade of the man who, owing to his own selfishness, has not given in his heart a place and attention to his Friend.'

Imam Ja'far Ṣādiq once replied to a man who asked him whether it is true that at the Day of Resurrection God will become visible to all ? 'Yes',—said he,—'He is visible even before that day. He is visible to His slaves from the day when He asked them : "am I not your Lord ?" Do not you see Him ?' The man who asked the question then replied : 'O my Lord, I see *thee* ! (Give me the permission to tell this (to others) on thy authority'. The Imam replied : 'do not tell this to anybody, because people are stupid and ignorant, [39] they shall disbelieve you, regarding this as impiety (*kufr*)'.

Seeing with one's heart is different from seeing with one's eyes. Know, brother, that this matter was always kept hidden from the unreliable people, and only a few trusted ones were admitted to learn it. And if one who is in possession of the Truth (*ahli haqiqat*) were found somewhere, the people would abuse him, or ridicule him. This is because, as we said above, the ears of people have become deaf, and the tongue of persuasion has become silent.

Imam Zaynu'l-'ābidīn, explaining a verse of poetry, says : 'I always hide the precious jewel of my knowledge because the ignorant do not see or recognize the truth—they are incapable of realizing its value. In the past my grandfather Abū'l-Hasan (i.e. 'Alī ibn Abī Tālib) possessed this knowledge, but kept it hidden, and bequeathed this to Imam Husayn, and before him to Imam Hasan, [40] to keep it secret. There are many precious and pure jewels of knowledge, but if I divulge them I may be charged with idolatry. Perhaps some fanatics may even attempt to murder me, thus committing a heinous crime. They may murder me under the impression that they are doing a good thing.'

The Commander of the Faithful ('Alī ibn Abī Tālib) said : 'I know many things which, if divulged, would appear to you so exciting that they would stir you like a loose rope, which is lowered into a deep well, stirs water in it, yet fails to reach its bottom'.

He added : 'I treated the people of this world as a bird that follows a flight of other birds : started when all [41] started, flew in a formation so that none obstructed the other'. But consider what he suffered in spite of all this from the people of his time ! And yet in spite of his concealment of his knowledge, it spread as you may see as the light of Divine greatness and glory. This matter demands much consideration.

If you consider this matter dispassionately, and think over it properly, you will find a strange thing. The knowledge was concealed by himself (i.e. by 'Alī) and his descendants ; his supporters, even if they could learn anything, would keep it secret

As we have seen, people are different, and it is with regard to the difference of their mentality that any one talks to them in accordance with their capacity of understanding. Thus it was said to some of them that no eye can see Him, or that He is beyond comprehension even of the wisest, just as He is invisible. It is simply because their capacity of understanding does not grasp the truth. But that manifestation of the Greatness and of the Perfection of God, i.e. the Commander of the Faithful, 'Alī, says: 'I would never worship God if I had not seen Him'. And if you realize the difference between the intellects and personalities [36] of different people, you may listen to some imbeciles who, having no means to understand this, talk pretentiously about *ma'rifat*, or the higher religious wisdom. It was said to them: O ye, mud, mixed with mud, and never rising above mud, and with face covered with mud, ye, whose nature is mud, who are born and living in mud, what can you understand in the world of purity? Yes, the body of dust, which in its every atom consists of dust, composed of dark and solid elements (*fira wa zulmānī*), even conceiving a very great idea, can only imagine things that are connected with his body of dust, i.e. physical self. Everything that he imagines above this, also belongs to the created world, like himself. He cannot imagine or know anything beyond this. Only those people who have purified their reason, heart, and imagination, by a long struggle with their *nafs*, or lower self, may attain more vision for their inner eye, may make their ears capable of listening to what others do not hear, and may see, understand and hear (what ordinary people cannot). How can one [37] say things to everybody, and how can they all listen to, see, and understand everything? Only those can do this who could witness this by the 'eye of Truth'.

What may be a satisfactory attainment for an ordinary man, and what may be his pride, may be a poor achievement for others. It is said that what may be acceptable from the good, may be regarded as a sin when done by the chosen ones. People of no spiritual vision are quite virtuous when they merely attest the existence of God, and the (life after) death. But this is entirely insufficient, and even sinful, when those who possess the higher religious knowledge (*ma'rifat*), are concerned. Just as when a baby does something, it may be very clever for its age, and quite natural to it. But it would be quite a different matter if an adult does the same thing,—his action surely will appear utterly ridiculous and stupid.

Imam Husayn in one of his prayers says: 'O, Creator, is there any one manifest by the side of Thee [38] who should make Thee manifest? How canst Thou be hidden so that Thou shouldst need some special proof of Thy existence? How canst Thou be so distant from man that now people should call me to Thee, and try to make me to attain Thy presence? Let every eye be

You see that in reality people speaking about God (*Hagg*), attribute to Him any such (perfections) as they can imagine. For instance, regarding blindness as a defect, they say about God that He sees everything. They regard stupidity as a defect, and thus say that God is Wise. Thus whatever they find in themselves as a vice and defect, they attribute to God a perfection opposite to that. Imāmi Sajjād (i.e. Zaynu'l-ābidin) says in a *ḥadīth*, which he relates from the Prophet, that people became too inquisitive towards the end of Muḥammad's life, and then the chapter of the Coran (C'XIV) 'Say: God is One' was revealed. All those things that you attribute to God from your imagination come out of your fantasy. Most probably even animals create [33] their own God free from their own defects, ascribing to Him (the opposite) perfections.

Imām Muḥammad Bāqir says that the tiny ant probably imagines his god as having two stings, because it regards the possession of only one sting as a defect.

If so, it is necessary (*waḥib*) to follow those religious Leaders (*pīshwāyān*), who simply say: 'we are the properties of God'. Realize, brother, that it is they who see, they who listen. The ordinary mortals are unable to do anything except obey orders. It is said: 'who knows me, knows God',—note this properly, brother. We need here a clear example which should make it easy to understand this:—the light that emanates from the lamp obviously is not the lamp itself; but if there were no light, [34] would you know what a lamp is, and where it stands? Thus it is (only) through the light that you can perceive the lamp, you know the lamp from the light.

I will give you another example, still more obvious: whenever you want to explain what is the sun, what can you do except simply show the sun? The sun is the only example of its kind. Thus if you want to see the sun, see itself:

'If you ask for a proof, do not disregard it'.

Thus they, the Saints of God, are the manifest form of God (*ṣūratī zāhiri Khudā*). Facts contain indications, but people read about them, and do not understand. They say: 'blessing be on Thee, O shining image of God, O Thou, the eye of God, O Thou, the listening ear of God! O Thou, the generous hand of God! O Thou, the blood of God (*sic*!), the son of the blood of God (*sic*!)'. Thus it is obvious that they are the properties of God [35] and that you are ordered to know them, as recognition of them exactly means the knowledge of God.

Then realize the meaning of the *ḥadīth* in which it is said that any one who dies without having known the Imam of his time, dies as an unbeliever, or idolater. Who does not know his Imam, does not know God.

6. (IMAM)

Now, with the help of God, I will tell you what has come down to us about the higher religious wisdom, *ma'rifat*, from the great saints of the religion.

One has to follow them in the questions of *ma'rifat*, and this is what they said: 'Do not discuss vainly the question of the Substance of God'. Now, brothers, summon all your intelligence, concentrate all your attention,—and let [30] God help me to explain this: to you—to understand this: it is an important and very difficult matter.

No one can dispute that there is a great difference between different people with regard to their intellect, just as there is great difference between them with regard to their appearance. You can see that some are taller or shorter than others, some have darker or lighter complexions. Just in the same way they differ in the principal and secondary features of their character, as you may see. They are as different with regard to their inner features as they differ in the outer form,—the outside (*zāhir*) always depends on the inside (*bāḥin*). How it is possible to talk to a child in the same way as one would talk to a clever adult? The child will never have patience nor intelligence to listen to this, and to understand this: 'how can a jug comprise the sea?' And 'one builds his home to suit his taste'.

It is owing to this difference of the mentality of different individuals [31] that many *ḥadīths* which have come down to us, on this subject, are so extremely difficult. None can understand them properly except a prophet on his mission (*nabī-i mursal*), or a cherubim (*malakī muqarrab*), or a really faithful devotee (*mu'min*) whose heart has been tested by God for its faith. If you try yourself in your hearts and your souls, then, as is said,—'come through our door, if thou art a seeker after eternal love'.

It is prohibited in religion to meditate on the subject of the attributes (*ṣifāt*) of God. If you imagine something so lofty that you cannot think of anything beyond it, this means that it is the limit of your own fantasy, not that you have really attained some final idea:

'All that is beyond thy imagination,

Is merely the limit of thy fantasy, not God'.

'Wisdom can attain a knowledge of His Substance

Only in the case if a piece of straw can sink to the bottom of the sea.'

Attribute, or property (*ṣifat*) means something in any one that can be noticed [32] and described as being attributed to the person. Thus you can recognize one by this sign, as explained. And if you are ordered not to meditate (about the nature of God), it is in order that you should not become confused, as, in any case, you are unable to know His properties.

look properly what you give, and what you receive in exchange : see that they take from you what is frail, and give in exchange what is lasting. You must be glad, therefore, to have such a transaction with God. You know that it is useless to grasp the things that are transient, losing all in the eternal life. But if you spurn attachment to the things of this world, all of them come under your control, because your renouncement [27] is dictated by obedience to God, not by fear, or expectation of reward. This is said by those who are in love with the Beauty of the Truth. Understand this, and remember this.

The Lord of Martyrs (i.e. Imām Ḥusayn) says : ' O, God, I have given up my life (*zamāna*) and my family out of love for Thee ; I came to Thee, dooming my wives and children to remain widows and orphans. I wanted to see the vision of Thy Perfection. And even if Thou wilt crush me to pieces, my heart, full of affection, will never be ardent for anything except for Thee.'

Think properly and note, how steadfast was he in his resolution, and neglect of this world ; to what extent was he determined. This is the meaning of the real overpowering of the world.

Now you have seen that one must be an obedient subject of his King, God, whose commands one has to obey. Now that we are speaking about *ma'rifat*, or higher religious wisdom, listen to this, about obedience.

Brother, obedience (*ifā'at*) [28] is the same thing as devotion (*'ibādat*), and devotion is the basis of the religious knowledge (*ma'rifat*). In the created world devotion and religious wisdom constitute its (spiritual) basis. It is said in the Coran itself (LI, 56) : ' And I have not created the *jinn* and mankind save that they may worship Me '. And it is also related that God said : ' I was a hidden treasure, and wanted to become manifest, so I created the mankind in order that they may acquire knowledge of Me '.

Great men of religion regarded worship and religious wisdom (*ma'rifat*), as one and the same thing. And now we come to our original question. I do not know how and what should I tell you so that you may understand it. Brother, know that the world is overcome with darkness, oppression by enemy, everything has to go through hard trials, people are in turmoil, all are being scattered in different directions, each man conceiving his own idea. Some people follow ignorant men who are merely thieves and swindlers on the [29] highways. Whatever was righteous and true, they adopted a hostile attitude towards it. Hearts gradually became black, ears deaf : the language of reason ceased to be understood,—it is impossible to address a crowd of the deaf, as they will not hear. But, brother, there *is* the voice of reason, and if you *can* hear it, come and hear, for otherwise you cannot understand the real meaning of religion :

' Words are as penetrating as sharp steel swords ;
If thou hast no shield, better run back '.

person only, and, by the means of this obedience, to become the master of all things ?

5. (*Ma'rifat*, OR SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE)

It is said in the *ḥadīth* : 'O, Muḥammad, if not for thy sake, We would not have created this world'. This means that all was created and came into existence only for his sake. And in another place it is said : 'If there were no 'Alī, We would not have created thee (Muḥammad)'. Thus it is clear that the purpose of the creation of the world was to make known that manifestation of the Divine Beauty and Perfection who is in possession of all His attributes. Where is the eye to see, and to understand this, following the path of Reason ?

It is plainly stated in the Coran that if the Prophet would not have openly professed his ('Alī's) *walāyat*, i.e. Saintsship, [24] his prophetic mission should remain incomplete : 'O, Prophet, bring to humanity the message that We entrusted to thee, and if thou dost not deliver it, thou wilt not fulfil thy mission'. Thus the creation of the world, the sending of the prophets, the revelation of the sacred books,—all these were intended in order that humanity could know him, 'about whom We have spoken, through every Prophet, and who became manifested at the time of Muḥammad'. This matter will also be discussed in its proper place.

Now it would be best to explain to you, brothers in religion, what is the 'higher knowledge', *ma'rifat*, in order that everything should be clear, if God please, so that you may understand the matter, in following which even the reason of the clever can become perplexed.

Do realize, brothers, that (in every nation) nobody is equal to the sultan, indeed : his subjects [25] know for certain that for them there is no choice but to obey him. Surely, sultans in this world possess the wealth and power to reward and to punish. But as the world itself is frail and transient, so is their authority also transient. They can only reward one with wealth which is not eternal, or punish one with penalties that are not eternal, for all that is in their power is transient.

On the other hand, the kings of *ma'rifat*, i.e. those who possess the Divine knowledge, have their own subjects who have to follow their command. These (have to follow the orders) to attain the benefits of eternal life : they have His promise of future life (*ākhirat*), which is an everlasting treasure, or eternal Divine mercy. Is there [26] then anyone who is sane, to prefer things transient to things eternal, or to accept some temporary advantage in exchange for eternal punishment ? It is said in the Coran (IX, 112) : 'Verily God hath bought of the faithful their souls and properties, giving them Paradise in exchange'.

Brother, do not underestimate that priceless gift,—of life ;

the same as the habits of beasts ! ' You obey them, and worship them, giving up following reason, which calls you to follow the right way, and abandoning the manner of angels.

If you do this, then see what happens, and how much shame and disgrace you invoke upon yourselves. Think over this carefully. How many people condemn the Hindus [20] for their worshipping idols. They do not know what the Hindus worship. But to worship one's own bad habits is thousand times worse than to worship a piece of stone. These bad habits are the same as those of beasts, and it is these that you worship.

This is why I said that it brings complete ruin like complete bankruptcy in trade, just as it is said in the 'Oran (IV. 118) : ' He loses with a manifest loss '.

Do realize, brother, that your way is one only, *viz.* the right way. Those whom you see in this world, they have strayed from it. It is quite immaterial whether one strays a little, or much, just as it is quite immaterial for a man who is drowned whether there is very little water over his head, or as much [21] as in the deepest sea

Strive not to deviate from the right path even a little, do not permit the devil to deceive you. If the lower self overpowers you, subjecting you to its caprices, then you will become miserable, a helpless toy in the hands of a wicked enemy, worshipping it, and slavishly complying with its unceasing demands. What reply then will you give to the voice of God ? What will you answer to the words of God (XXXVI. 60) : ' Men, did not I make a covenant with you that you will not serve the devil ? He is verily your open enemy '.

Every one who easily obeys the caprices of his lower self, the Evil one, must be prepared to answer this question of God. Therefore, brother, do not become [22] infatuated with the things of the world that you possess. Suppress the impulses of your lower self, and do not tie up so much your thought with the matters of the worldly life. Realize that if you do not permit the external world to trample you under its feet, you will command it. It is said in the 'Oran that all that is found in the heaven and the earth, is under your command. This means that those who can understand properly, can see that this is true.

Reflect, brother, and understand what great wealth is given to you, for which you must be thankful. And if you cannot make yourself obedient, and want to cease further efforts, I will tell you that man must have in this world a leader (*pīshuā*). But about this more will be said in its proper place. If I say : keep away from the matters of this world,—this means that you must take hold of the assistance of the person, for whose existence [23] all the things of this world have been created. With his help they may be subdued to you. Reflect, what is better,—to covet these things which, after all, will master you, or to be obedient to one

all the difference between these two, between the friend and the enemy, and then do not step off the road.

It is said in the Coran : ' We have shown thee the way of good and the way of evil '. And in another place there is another reference to the same matter : ' We have pointed to the man the way on which he may be restful '. Thus either accept with profound gratitude this great blessing [17] and follow the right way, or, if you fail to realize its value, you have to be with the unbelievers (*kāfir*), who close their eyes to the necessity for the grateful appreciation of the blessing of God, and thus go the wrong way.

Verily, what blessing is greater and more desirable than to feel one self on the right path, the 'straight road' (*ṣirāṭu'l-mustaqīm*), and thus being safely guided, saved from errors, clearly seeing the right (*ḥaqq*) from the wrong (*bāṭil*), and abstaining from it ? If you realize the great value of this, and if you apply this your knowledge whenever you are in a difficult position, you will never act wrongly, always knowing what to do.

It is for you to decide, which way you will follow, reason (*ʿaql*), or the lower self (*nafs*); it is for you to choose. Only realize that what deviates you from the right way, and keeps you from obedience to God, is the *nafs*. [18] And you cannot imagine what misfortunes may come from following the temptations of the *nafs*.

If you stray into the path of evil, if you do not observe the prescriptions of religion, if you be ungrateful for the great blessing of life, or existence, which is given to you, and even go so far as to hold religion in contempt, committing the sin of obstinate ingratitude, *kufrān*, or suppose that the way suggested by the desires of your lower self is the right way of acting,—then, after all this, you may stray so far as to become one of those who are outside the true religion. The more you follow the impulses of your lower self, *nafs*, the more you will stray from the only true way, so far, indeed, that gradually you may come to the state when you act contrary to your own avowed intentions. The poet says well.

'It is the mirror which is turned to the West,

—Thy face is turned towards the East.

So I am, alas, going away from Thee.'

Thus, if you have the power to see, or think properly about yourself, you may notice that you are not followers of the religion, because [19] worship really means obedience to its dictates. And if you obey the impulses of your lower self, this means that you worship it : but if you worship it, it means that you do not worship God. This is why I said that your lower self is an enemy, pretending to be your friend, but in reality misleading you. The Coran speaks clearly about this : ' Hast thou seen those who have taken as their deity their own instincts and impulses, which are

[14] How much does such a condition differ from that of those who have in their lives built a sound hereafter (*ākhirat*), by obeying all the commands that have been laid upon them. They reap the harvest of their pure and meritorious lives, and receive priceless jewels for their former efforts. They can see that these are much better than those which they sacrificed. They have made a profit, gained much, gathered the results of their labours, and know where they are.

4. ('Aql—REASON, OR CONSCIOUSNESS, AND Nafs,—LOWER SELF, OR SELFISHNESS)¹

Know also, brother, that there is a great difference between reason ('*aql*') on the one side, and instinct, or the subconscious mind, *nafs*, on the other. If you know this difference, and realize it at the right time, you will never meet with any difficulty in any matter, because you will know how to act, always remaining on the 'direct path', the *ṣirāṭu'l-mustaqīm*. Reason, [15] '*aql*', is the faculty which always shows you the right way, not permitting you to stray from it. Reason is what you have to worship (God with, gaining the blessing of eternal life, of entrance into Paradise, and a permanent abode in it.

Nafs, or the subconscious and emotional self, is the opposite of Reason. If you consider it properly, and reflect a little, you will find that it is the real enemy of your entire self, not only of Reason,—a powerful adversary. Though ordinarily one must obey the dictates of Reason, one's *nafs* distracts him, obstructing the way and keeping one in conflict with the dictates of one's Reason, preventing one from becoming nearer to God. Even if sometimes the *Nafs* shows one the way of devotion, this may be against the will of God. It is an inimical principle, which does not permit one to attain the desired goal. It invents all possible obstacles [16] in the path. It comes up in the dress of a friend,—a real wolf in a lamb's skin. Insinuating itself, it persuades you to commit mischief. Of what use are then all your woes and wails?

God has left amongst you a Guide, or 'Proof', *ḥujjat*, who shows the right way which you have to follow. If you do not follow it, this is your own fault. Understand then once and for

¹ The term '*aql*' in the context like this, i.e. in the works dealing with religion and ethics, covers much of the ground comprised in the Western idea of 'consciousness' (in ethical sense), though it does not coincide with it completely. Similarly *nafs*, which in purely psychological context means 'subconscious self' (in a broad sense), here may mean 'selfishness', 'egotism', in fact, something that should be the opposite of consciousness, and for which there is apparently no special term in European languages. It implies unceremonious self-assertion, disregard to everything that is non-ego, and, at the same time, catering for the lower, sensuous sides to one's nature.

shameful acts which you have committed during forty years or more of your life,—what will be your feelings then ?

3. (HOW TO LIVE ?)

But what should you do to avoid this ? That I will explain to you further on, if God please.

Taking up this question, we may mention that it is said in the Coran [11] (XXIII, 102), that on the Day of Judgment some of the sinful will say to God : ‘ O, Creator ! let us go again into the world,—this time we will be devout and obedient ’. But God will reply to them that they are deceivers,—for as soon as they return to life, they will do the same things again. Tell yourselves therefore that this very day is the day which God has granted as a respite to you, sending you back to the earth to rectify your misdeeds, complying with your prayer to return you to this world. Regard every moment as a precious jewel of great price, and do all that you would do if you lay at the point of death,—do not postpone it.

Brother, think not that I tell you these things merely to harass you ; think not that you are unable to do anything as you have to attend the matters of the affairs of this world, of the daily bread and domestic affairs. [12] No, you *can* do this. You can remain faithful to the command of God, to be His servant while keeping the affairs of this world in a flourishing condition, even in a better order than usual.

The great religious authorities have divided the day and the night into three equal parts, each eight hours long. And if you do the proper things which are prescribed for each part of the day and night, you will succeed in your spiritual progress as well as in your worldly affairs. One part is assigned for sleep, food, and domestic affairs. One is to be spent in following the occupation in earning one’s subsistence. And one part is to be devoted to the worship of God, whose object is the attainment of the salvation and eternal life.

It is said in a *ḥadīth* : ‘ Ye, mankind, are [13] created for perpetuating creation, not for its annihilation and destruction ’. For this reason you must sever the ties which bind you to the affairs of this world, and hasten to attain that world, to do some work which may become the ‘ capital ’ of your future salvation, when you will collect the profit accruing on it, in the future life. This world is the earth, and the future life is the crop. Whatever you have sown in this, that you will reap in the next (life). Therefore, if you have failed in your resolve, permitting yourself to swerve from obedience to God, you have wasted your opportunity, and from this field you will not reap any crop. Your position will then be like to that of a bankrupt, who deplores his folly when it is too late to do anything.

account of his passions. Thus he may realize, after reflecting a little, and seeing the world around, how precious, [7] like the rarest pearls and jewels, is every moment of his existence,—nay, rather priceless. Once lost, it is irretrievable, indeed, and never returns. You can never imagine anything as precious as life, each moment of it. Who can regain even a moment of life that has passed? This is why I say that it is priceless, for what can replace it? It is a kind of capital (*naqd*), by the investment of which one can acquire the treasures of the mercy of God for oneself. You can build your own salvation (*ākhirat*) upon a single moment. In a single moment, of which one makes a proper use, one can place oneself near to God, and one can attain the possibility of contemplation of God, just as he sees (the ordinary things) in this world.

If you realize the value (of life), and keep yourself ready, [8] you can make a bargain with such a single moment, gaining imperishable profit. It will never be lost for you, never diminishing. So do not waste time, do not live in a state of perpetual indebtedness. If you waste your time, or throw your energy in paths which do not lead to anything good, wasting opportunities in a foolish manner,—you will lose everything. Have you ever heard of a clever merchant who spent his time in trade which did not bring him any profit, and even involved the loss of his capital, or actually lost it? Think, therefore, for yourselves, friends, and say to yourselves: I want [9] my capital (to be used) in the trade by which I can obtain the profit of eternal life. What are these few days of life which pass, and from which nothing substantial can be derived? Really, all that part of my life which has passed so far, is nothing but a loss from my original capital: this day, this very moment must I value as the most precious advantage, because it is still another day, holding off my end, which is postponed. If this day, or moment, were not given to you as a respite, would not you too be amongst the dead, and then would not you covet this very day, this very moment as many people would do who now are dead while only yesterday they were living. Have you any doubt that if you would have died yesterday, you would regret very much about the life which you had lost? Appreciate, therefore, while you still have it, the priceless gift which [10] to-day God has given you. Do devote it to the worship of God, because this short period of your life may reduce to nothing all that was before. Seize the opportunity to perform some righteous deed that will be your justification, so that in the next life you may not be in the same position as those who feel ashamed of themselves.

Do you not in this world see that many who commit a shameful act, which becomes known to others, how much they are tortured by feelings of shame and disgust? How then will you feel when every one, even the prophets and the angels, will know *all* the

of the expression *sirāṭu'l-mustaqīm*, i.e. the bridge narrow as the edge of a sword which leads to Paradise. To bring these instincts under control is to walk along the right path.

If God pleases, [4] we will explain this in the present treatise.

Brethren in religion! There are very many verses in the 'Coran, and very many *ḥadīths* that deal with this question, of purifying the instincts and of correcting them. Amongst them is one in which God says: 'He acquireth the peace of mind who refineth his own nature'. And verily this is so, for there is no matter of greater importance than to purify one's own self. Only by this may one hope to progress along the path of rectitude, because there is no greater obstacle against success in this direction than one's own lower instincts, which obstruct one's fulfilment of the dictates of religious philosophy and the commandments of the Divine religion. It is only when you bring this self under control, carefully watching its movements, [5] lest it overpowers you unaware, and tempts you to take a false step, that you are able to advance slowly in the life of virtue.

Ḥaḍrati Mawlā explains what should be the devotion, obedience, and the loyalty to the guiding principles amongst his followers, how they should walk in the right path and bring their lower selves under control. He says: 'O, Creator, this is my disobedient self which I must force to kneel (before Thee) just as I force to kneel an (obstinate) camel, tying its knees by the rope of Thy will, so that it may not do anything that does not coincide with Thy desire'.

Remember, therefore, friends, that one must keep one's self under the keenest surveillance, so as not to let it have one single moment of opportunity to escape from control, and force its will upon one. If this is not done, it may take one out of the way, overpower one's will, raising its head from the Hell, and thus prevent one from attaining the position of communion (*maqāmi qurb*) with God. It will not permit one to attain all the good which the righteous can attain. For this reason one has to make effort in order to find the proper way. [6]

It is said in the 'Coran (IX, 19): 'Those who fight in the way of God, We guide them on Our way'. It is this way which is the *sirāṭu'l-mustaqīm*. One has to keep away and restrain his nature from the worldly things that it may covet, thus building up for oneself a kind of spiritual treasure (*dhakhīra*), never deviating from the main path into which religion directs him.

2. (LIFE IS THE MOST PRECIOUS THING THAT MAN POSSESSES)

Bear in mind, brother, that every one, even those of little intelligence, should, in accordance with the behest of the 'Coran and the *ḥadīths*, if he cares even a little about the future life, on rising from sleep each morning, reflect upon his actions, taking

TRUE MEANING OF RELIGION

(*Risāla dar Haqiqati Dīn*)

TRANSLATION

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate !

Says the humble slave of Hadratī Shahinshāhī Āghā 'Alī Shāh,—may my spirit be sacrificed for him !—Shihābu'd-dīn al-Husaynī : some brethren in religion, whose desire I regard myself obliged to fulfil, have asked me to write, in the form of a concise book, the principles which should guide them in their lives, showing them the right way of moving amongst their brethren in this world, that they may know, and,—if God pleases,—comply with all counsels, thus obtaining peace of mind. [2] With the help of God I was enabled to comply with their request.

1. (STRUGGLE WITH ONE'S OWN PASSIONS)

The great Lord of Lords (Mawlā 'Alī),—upon whom be the blessings of God, the King the All-High—said that once the Prophet (blessings of God be upon him) sent a party of his companions on a military expedition. On their return, when they came before his presence, he gave them greeting as men who had participated in a *jihādi asghar*, or the smaller war in the cause of religion, and said that they still had to take up the *jihādi akbar*, the greater war. Whereupon they inquired from the Apostle of God : ' what is the *jihādi akbar* ! ' And he replied that the most glorious war is that which a man wages against his own vile instincts. This is, indeed, the truth,—the blessings of God be upon him who said it !

Brethren in religion, ye who aspire to attain love and affection [3] for the Lord, listen to me a while, hearken to the real meaning of the words of the Prophet, and then reflect a little upon your own existence. Perhaps some one amongst you may therein find some truth (*falāḥ*) which shall bless his life.

The real meaning of the great *jihād* is a war against one's own vile instincts to bring them under control, so that those low passions which constantly endeavour to deviate one's feet from the path of rectitude, in opposition to the behest of reason, may cease to mislead one into acting against the prescriptions of the true religion. It is one's duty to bring the impulses of one's instincts under the control of one's reason, training nature always to obey and to comply with the dictates of reason. This constitutes the substance of what is called 'salvation' ; in this lies the true meaning

Ismailism, and generally from the enemies of religion and moral. It does not mean that the advice which he gives prohibits the study of mathematics, chemistry, medicine, and the other sciences which promote the welfare of human society.

Such seeming inconsistencies can obviously be ascribed to the circumstance that the treatise was never properly finished and revised. Most probably they would have disappeared had the author lived to complete his work, and give it its final form.¹

The autograph copy, preserved in the library of Hājī Mūsā Khān, one of the attendants of the late Shihābū'd-dīn Shāh, is an oblong note-book, of the type which the Persians call *bayāḍ*, comprising about 200 pages of yellowish machine made paper, of which only 75 are occupied by the treatise, the remainder being blank sheets. It is $8\frac{3}{4}$ by $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches outside, the place occupied with the text measuring $6\frac{1}{2}$ by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches.²

In the text and in the translation which are here offered the original pagination has been preserved,³ and an index of the names of persons and of the principal technical terms is annexed, in which the reference is to the *original* pagination. As it is quite probable that the treatise will find many readers among the Ismailis of Persia, Afghanistan, and Central Asia, unacquainted with the English language, a short preface in Persian is added. The first page of the autograph copy is here reproduced in a facsimile.

In conclusion I have to express my profound gratitude to all my Ismaili friends who made this and other publications possible, and also to the present owner of the original Manuscript who was so kind and broadminded as to lend it to me for study and publication.

W. I.

Bombay, April, 1933.

¹ The author voluntarily imposed upon himself several restrictions which made his work rather difficult: he had to avoid all subjects which could be considered by his followers as secret, but which, in fact, constitute the substance of the discussion. He had to speak about the matters which are essentially controversial in such a way as to avoid hurting the feelings of any outsider. He had to deal with the matters which are very difficult by their nature, presenting them in a plain popular form, which should appeal to anyone. And, above all, he preserved its form of a sermon, which, perhaps, would be extremely impressive when properly delivered, but loses much in writing. Under circumstances such as these it is impossible to see how far the author intended to go in every particular case, and what he really wanted to emphasize. Therefore in the present translation no comments are given, though the student of Ismailian undoubtedly will find many subjects of great interest and importance, regretting that they are not treated in a more explicit way.

² In the present edition the original was reproduced as it was, with its absence of punctuation, and, as far as possible, its original orthography. Only obvious 'slips' are here corrected, and the difference between *k* and *g* introduced.

³ In the Persian text the numbers of the original pages are placed in the margin, and in the translation—in heavy type at the beginning of every original page.

There are no subdivisions into *bābs* or *faṣls* in the original ; but in order to facilitate the handling of the contents we have introduced in the translation auxiliary headings indicating the subject of each of the more or less self-contained portions.

The style of the treatise is remarkably plain and unpretentious. It has the form of a long sermon rather than of a religious pamphlet. So much was simplicity of style valued by the author that he omitted the Arabic text of the numerous *Ḥoranic* and *ḥadīth* quotations, giving them in a Persian translation only.

But though completely dispensing with the bombast and stiltedness which were so much cultivated by the Persian writers of his time, the author did not give up the Sufic form, or tone, of his speculations. It is well-known that for many centuries Ismailism in Persia had perforce to disguise its literature in the garb of Sufic speculations, with which, indeed, its philosophy had much in common. This tradition lasted for a long time, and Persian Ismailis were probably quite accustomed to decipher its conventional expressions, which could not mislead anyone. Conditions have since changed very much. Though only a very short period of less than fifty years separates us from that of the author, a complete change has taken place, and the modern generation is as unfamiliar with Sufic symbolism as outsiders. As an instance, when the author calls upon his followers to renounce the world and to sever their connection with worldly pursuits, he by no means recommends that all Ismailis should abandon their homes, and wander forth as religious mendicants. What he means by his call to abandon the world is that his followers must control their dependence upon material comforts which may easily become far in excess of what is proper. He regards the proper discharge of one's duties and the honest earning of one's subsistence by hard and meritorious work as highly commendable ways of worshipping God. It is a warning not to place pleasure and comfort above religious and spiritual considerations.

Or, in another place (p. 68 of the original copy), the author advises his followers 'to abstain from acquiring the knowledge which is incompatible with true piety,' or 'the science of the enemies'. What that 'knowledge' is—the author, unfortunately, does not specify, and as he constantly advises his followers to take up religious studies, the impression may easily be created that he advocates abandoning the study of everything except the *Ḥoran* and the *ḥadīths*. But this is again only a conventional form of expressing the idea that one should not devote his thought to acquiring the information which is directed against the foundations of piety and righteousness, and emanates from the enemies of

quite smooth. There are also occasional orthographical oversights, as, for instance, occasional *kī* for *khī*, or *khwīstan* for *khāstan*, etc., though, on the whole, they are very rare.

PREFACE

The present short treatise on the spirit of the fundamental principles of Ismailism forms a useful introduction to the study of the Ismaili doctrine in general, and especially as it developed in the Nizari school of the sect. It was intended by its author to reach everybody, the learned as well as the people of no great education, and therefore all technicalities or abstract and difficult theories have been carefully avoided. The author shows on many occasions a deep insight into the nature of the religious life of the human soul, and here and there lays open the most hidden psychological springs of the movement, in fact more than many works extant do.

The author, the late Shihābu'd-dīn Shāh, the son of the 47th Imam of the Nizaris, Shāh 'Alī Shāh, was expected by many to succeed his father in his high office. He is still remembered by the old men in Bombay and Poona as a young man of outstanding ability and exceptional learning. Not only was he greatly loved by the followers of his community, but he also commanded the high esteem of a wide circle of Muhammadan society, enjoying great respect even of his religious opponents. His premature death in the end of Rajab 1302/beg. of May 1885, while he was still under forty, did not permit the great expectations which were cherished by his followers to materialize.

His present treatise was left unfinished. According to the author's own statement in the end of it, it had to be divided into two parts. Only the first, dealing with the explanation of the true conception of the Ismaili principles, is found in the present autograph copy, which, most probably, is a fair copy from the original drafts. There is no information as to whether the second part, which was to explain the rules of the pious and righteous life, was written. The first part forms a complete treatise by itself, though there are found here and there details which apparently were to receive a fuller treatment in the second part.¹

¹ The style of the work generally bears many traces of hurry, and contains many oversights. It is found on many occasions that a sentence begins in Plural and ends in Singular, and *vice versa*; some sentences are not

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**TRUE MEANING OF
RELIGION**
(Risala dar Haqiqati Din),

BY

**SHIHABU'D-DIN SHAH
AL-HUSAYNI**

PERSIAN TEXT AND AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION,

BY

W. IVANOW

BOMBAY

1933

